

# THE GATEWAY

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## University signs new deals with Mexico

TIANNA MAPSTONE  
News Writer

In a recent ceremony in Ottawa, attended by Prime Minister Paul Martin and Mexican President Vicente Fox, the U of A and Mexico signed four unprecedented agreements that outlined strategies for educational cooperation.

Originating as part of a broader strategy encouraging international cooperation, and the culmination of two years of negotiations, the four newly signed agreements outlined student and faculty exchanges and energy-industry cooperation encompassing universities and corporations.

There were nine agreements signed late last month during President Fox's Canadian trade negotiation visit; four of them were with the University of Alberta.

PLEASE SEE MEXICO • PAGE 2



THE LUCK OF THE IRISH Dancers from Will Miller's Ireland variety show cut more than their share of rugs at the Horowitz Theatre on Wednesday night.

LEANNE FONG

## No women in CBC top ten causes upset

TASNEEM KARBANI  
News Writer

On the CBC's list of the ten great Canadians, which includes athletes, inventors, three former prime ministers and the likes of Don Cherry, a feminine presence is missing.

The absence of women on the CBC's top-ten list for *The Greatest Canadian* series has attracted the attention of many Canadian women. In the spring

of 2004, the CBC received nominations for the greatest Canadian from across the country. Twenty women figured in the top-100 list, but no women received enough nominations to make the top ten. The highest-ranking female was Shania Twain at number 18.

U of A political science professor Dr. Linda Trimble, a specialist in gender politics, believes the list indicates the primarily publicized figures rather

than who is truly great.

"It's a popularity contest. It's about who is in the public eye; it's not about greatness," Trimble said.

Kathleen Powderley, a CBC publicist, emphasized that *The Greatest Canadian* is a television show, not a referendum or scientific list. The CBC adopted *The Greatest Canadian* program from the British version, *The Great Britons*.

Powderley said that in comparison to the 40 000 nominations received for *The Great Britons*, *The Greatest Canadian* polling in spring 2004 received over 140 000 nominations for 10 000 different candidates.

However, *The Great Briton* top-ten list included two women: Princess Diana and Queen Elizabeth I. But Powderley said the Canadian top-ten list is not a reflection of the CBC's views but of the Canadian public who voted.

Trimble believes the poll will mislead people into thinking that women have not accomplished very much, which in her view is not the case. She explained that society has equated greatness with politicians and public figures. Until the early 20th century, when women entered the workforce in greater numbers, these figures were primarily male.

"For women to be great in the public realm of politics or business is a very recent phenomenon," said Trimble.

PLEASE SEE CBC • PAGE 2



NATHALIE NEDAU

WOMEN ARE GREAT, TOO Dr. Linda Trimble discusses faults of CBC rankings.

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**7** Adam Snider, Chad Bartsch and others are here to help you make an informed decision for our upcoming election, and Iris Tse shows us that VO isn't the only thing to fear from sex in Opinion.

## From the archives

The Gateway planned to publish daily in the New Year after the Students' Union purchased a set of printing presses, after previously contracting out to North Hill News. "There has always existed a need for another responsible newspaper in the Edmonton urban area," said Gateway Editor-in-Chief Benjie Fritze. A special meeting for the SU council was called in order to ratify the paper's new expenses. Fritze estimated that \$50 000-\$425 000 would be needed to start production. The Gateway planned to initially print 100 000 copies per run, hoping to eventually publish throughout Western Canada. The paper's advertising manager was hopeful that the Gateway would take away half of the Edmonton Journal's market.

1974

## US election means uncertain four years: professors

COSANNA PRESTON  
Senior News Editor

Things are getting to get worse before they get better, according to two political science professors at the University of Alberta commenting on the aftermath of the American election.

While the outcome wasn't a surprise, both Dr. W. Andy Knight and Dr. Greg Anderson, focusing on international relations and American politics respectively, admitted another four years of the George W. Bush administration has left many people around the world nervous. However, both were quick to point out the John Kerry campaign didn't really offer an alternative.

"I'm just not sure it would have made much difference if it was Bush or Kerry. The differences between them were really in their tone rather than substance," said Anderson.

Knight agreed, noting there was very little difference between the two in "real policy terms." He acknowledged the candidates' policies on Iraq illustrated this well, as both said they would continue the war on terrorism.

"So you [had] to decide which one [was] going to be more effective in going after the terrorists, rather than which one [was] actually going to deal

with terrorism in a substantive way," commented Knight.

"There was very, very little in the way of concrete choices to be made there," Knight said.

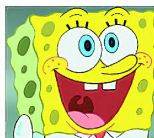
Still, the American electorate made a choice and Anderson argued that Bush is entering the next four years with a lot more legitimacy, due to his majority in the popular vote. However, he acknowledged Bush has a lot of work to do for the American government to run smoothly.

"It's going to force the president to court not only the Democrats, but continue to support moderate Republicans, who could threaten to side and vote with the Democrats on pieces of controversial legislation. He doesn't have a carte blanche slate to do whatever he wants on Capitol Hill," said Anderson.

But Anderson stressed people shouldn't view the United States as clearly divided. While Knight argued the divide was extreme if not dangerous, Anderson suggested such comments oversimplify the situation.

"There is a vociferous debate going on right now. There's no doubt about that. But if you look at exit polling, there's an awful lot of variation in terms of what people are interested in."

PLEASE SEE BUSH • PAGE 2



**14** Ever wanted to see a live-action David Hasselhoff hobnob with a cartoon sponge? Now's your chance: check out *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie* review in A&E.

## THE GATEWAY

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## colophon

The Gateway's created using Macintosh computers, Linux PhotoLink 3000 flatbed scanner, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Helvetica, Garamond, and Avenir. The Gateway's masthead paper is the Marbledon. The Gateway's games of choice are GTA, SA, and Halo 2.

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## New deals promise expanded exchange between Mexico and the U of A

MEXICO • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We were the only university to sign agreements in that ceremony, so I think we had an excellent exposure in terms of our international activities," said Dr Brian Stevenson, University of Alberta vice-provost and associate vice-president (international).

The four agreements open cooperation between the U of A and Mexican institutions in energy-related fields. One important arrangement allows Pemex, a Mexican state-owned petroleum company, to sponsor their employees to do graduate work at the U of A. This is the only agreement Pemex has with a Canadian university.

An agreement with the Mexican Petroleum Institute stipulates collaboration in developing a new energy graduate studies program and to exchange grad students between institutions.

Another agreement with the private Mexican university, Tec de Monterrey, continues negotiations in the development of a joint MBA program to be offered to energy professionals from Mexico. In addition, the Secretariat of Public Education in Mexico made arrangements to sponsor tenured professors from Mexican state universities to obtain their PhDs in Alberta.

Livia Castellanos, the U of A's international relations officer for Latin America, explained that the University's superior approach to international relations makes exclusive arrangements, like the one with Pemex, possible. She said that the U of A is one of the most active Canadian universities in Mexico.

"Mexico is one of those countries with whom we have one of the most intense and successful relationships," Stevenson added.

"There is a tremendous amount of interest of Mexicans in Canada at



**BIG DEALS WITH MEXICO** Brian Stevenson explains the new agreements. **IBS TSE**

all levels, but certainly at the higher-education level."

Over the last 15 years, working sector by sector, the U of A first created connections in agriculture, followed by forestry and now the energy- and petroleum-related fields. Healthcare fields are soon to follow. Stevenson hopes to cycle through the faculties, establishing research agreements where interest exists.

"A lot of the work that we're doing involves getting our researchers together with their researchers and finding sources of funding to promote more research," he explained. According to Stevenson, establishing links with Mexico is important because they share so many of the same interests as Canadians. With both countries bordering the United States and being members of NAFTA, Stevenson said there is a shared interest at the research level. However, the

international dimension doesn't end with Mexico, and the University has agreements of one kind or another with over a hundred countries.

New graduates are more likely to go on to do something that will have an impact internationally than the older generation, Stevenson explained, making it necessary to broaden the learning environment and include an international dimension that will enrich students' learning and interests. He believes bringing students and faculty of varying backgrounds to the U of A can enhance learning by exposing students to different cultures, perspectives and ways of doing things.

"There are things that we can discover about ourselves when we get to meet people from other countries," Stevenson explained.

"As a multicultural country, we have to learn about the world because the world has come here."

## CBC ranking doesn't reflect greatness, says professor

CBC • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We tend to define greatness according to masculine traits and accomplishments."

MediaWatch, a non-profit feminist organization, conducts research on the portrayal of women in the media to promote social justice and equality. Deborah Barretto, communications manager from MediaWatch, was surprised that no women figured on the top-ten list of *The Greatest Canadians*.

For Barretto, including Don Cherry in the top ten shows that people voted primarily for recognizable public figures. Barretto thought it was sad that no women made the cut, but stresses that the poll doesn't mean there are no great Canadian women.

"It's not a last say of what or who the

"We tend to define greatness according to masculine traits and accomplishments."

**DR LINDA TRIMBLE,  
POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR**

greatest Canadian is. The voting and polling process is not too reflective," said Barretto.

According to Katharine Friesen of the U of A's Women's Centre Collective, the entire campaign is problematic.

"I believe there is a real one-sided picture of Canadian history being put forth—it's really simplistic and moralistic," Friesen said.

"If you look at the entire list, there's a general deficiency of representation from marginalized groups."

Powderley stressed that the CBC faithfully stuck to the votes from the Canadian public. But in Friesen's view, it is predictable that no women made the top ten.

"It makes sense that there would be a lack of women nominees. They usually are doing things behind the scenes," said Friesen.

On 29 November, the greatest Canadian will be revealed. Currently, Mediacare founder Tommy Douglas is leading, with cancer activist Terry Fox in second. But, as Friesen quipped, either way the polls go, "behind every good man there's a woman."

## Bush's impact on Canada is unclear: profs

BUSH • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"So it's hard to paint it with a broad brush like that," said Anderson.

Both professors agreed it's even harder to decipher what the election means for Canada-US relations. While the relationship works well on an operational level, Anderson said the prime minister needs to mend the public image of the relationship, but is taking important steps like inviting Bush to Ottawa.

"If [Bush] makes that trip, it might be a sign that things are on the mend in kind of a symbolic way, that they

can get along and be friendly, they can pick up the phone with one another."

Knight, however, was more concerned for Canada, citing various American pressures on the Canadian government as reasons to be wary over the next four years.

"Whenever the United States sneezes, Canada catches a cold," Knight said of the tempestuous American economy.

"And in terms of social policies, lots of pressure could be placed on the Canadian government to bring our standards to the level of the United States," said Knight.

"But anyone who says they know for sure that this election is going to have a negative impact or positive impact [on Canada], they'd be lying to you."

Unfortunately, no one is certain what the election holds for anyone, Anderson said.

"Everyone is staying tuned, because nobody's absolutely sure what the next four years bring... You're looking at a different animal in the United States... The rest of the world has had to sort of just figure out how to adjust, unfortunately, and it's up to a lot of people. There's no doubt about it."



## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed  
by Scott C Bourgeois and  
Ross Prusakowski

Albertans head to the  
polls on Monday, 22  
November to select their  
new government.

Who are you going to  
vote for?



Amy Forsyth  
Land Reclamation  
Science III

I think I'm going to vote for Ralph again  
because I think he does a good job. I like  
having a good economy in Alberta.



Lizzy Hoyt  
Science II

I don't know who I'm going to vote for  
yet. I know who I'm definitely not going  
to vote for, but I haven't done enough  
research into the candidates in my  
riding [to know who] to vote for. [But]  
not Klein.



Filip Ani  
Arts IV

Specifically Kevin Taft, because he's run-  
ning in my riding. I know him person-  
ally and he's a good guy. He's all about  
the community, and he's done a lot for  
the Liberal government. He's returning  
more credibility to the Liberal party.  
\*Nuff said.



Graeme  
Wicentowich  
Engineering II

Anyone but Ralph Klein because he's too  
Calgary-centred—and Calgary sucks.



KEEPING YOU REGULAR Dr Feral Temelli discusses fibre extract benefits.

## New fibre product keeps people regularly healthy

University of Alberta spinoff company develops  
cost-effective fibre extraction method

IRIS TSE  
News Writer

Two researchers with the U of A's department of agriculture, food and nutritional science have collaborated to develop a new way to extract immune-booster beta glucan, a dietary fibre found in oats, barley, and wheat.

Known health benefits of beta glucan include boosting the immune system, moderating blood-sugar levels and decreasing the risk of cardiovascular diseases. In addition, beta glucan can be a means of fulfilling the 25 grams of fibre per day quota set out by Health Canada.

But despite its proven nutritional benefits, beta glucan is not yet available beyond health food stores and niche markets, due to the current costly and ineffective means of extracting it from the grain. But Dr Thava Vasanathan and Dr Feral Temelli may have found a way to combat this.

**"So what we're doing is to concentrate the beta glucan-soluble fibre and allow it to be put back into food applications such as cereals, beverages, granola bars, soup, pasta and a host of other food applications in a more physiologically meaningful dose."**

KIM LUCAS,  
PRESIDENT AND CEO,  
CEVENA BIOPRODUCTS

Vasanathan explains that the trickiest step of the current processing methods is the high amount of water used to extract the beta glucan.

"Since beta glucan is a compound that absorbs a lot of water, the large amount of water added made it too goopy to process. Right now, beta glucan is produced at a thousand dollars per kilogram or so. So it's a very expensive product," she said.

The patented process devised by Vasanathan and Temelli allows them to deviate from traditionally costly extraction procedures by knocking out specific parts of the fibre's cell walls.

By doing so, they have made it feasible to extract beta glucan in a much

more cost-effective and large-scale manner, thus delivering the final product to consumers at a much lower cost.

Cevena Bioproducts Inc., a University spinoff company created by Vasanathan and Temelli, currently sells the beta glucan product extract under the name Viscofibre.

According to Kim Lucas, president and CEO of Cevena Bioproducts, Viscofibre is distinguished from other similar products currently on the market in that it has a much higher concentration of beta glucan. The higher concentration is the key to reducing cholesterol.

When ingested, the dietary fibre forms a viscous carbohydrate sludge in the stomach, allowing it to trap and absorb bile within the digestion system. Once the bile is trapped, the body will replenish the lost bile by drawing out cholesterol from the blood.

In fact, the same fibre and concept is behind the tagline, "Cheerios Can Reduce Your Cholesterol!"

"What they don't tell you is that you need four bowls of Cheerios every day to have any hope in lowering your cholesterol," said Lucas.

"So what we're doing is to concentrate the beta glucan-soluble fibre and allow it to be put back into food applications such as cereals, beverages, granola bars, soup, pasta and a host of other food applications in a more physiologically meaningful dose."

While the benefits of the fibre have long been established, none of the products currently available contain such high concentration of beta glucan. Therefore, they are required to prove that the consumption of beta glucan at such a high concentration will not result in adverse effects. Cevena Bioproducts is currently seeking approval from Health Canada and the newly created National Health Product Directory. The latter is part of the Natural Health Product Regulations established in January 2004 to regulate the health-food industry.

While Dr Vasanathan does not foresee the application of this extraction process extending to other cereal grains, he was optimistic about other prospective beta glucan applications.

"Certain fragments of beta glucan have been shown to benefit human skin. Since the cosmetic industry is always looking for new products to gain more market share, beta glucan is gaining popularity in the cosmetic industry, especially as skin lotion."

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Main Campus, Room X107

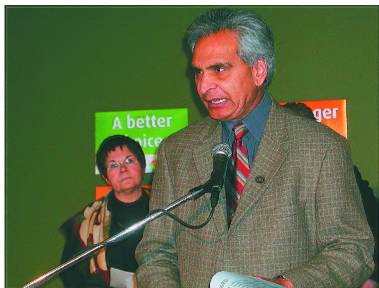
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"What do  
Tom Hanks,  
a sword  
and a porn star  
have in  
common?"

said in **ed** - May 29, 2004



**ROLL BACK TUITION** Dr Raj Pannu speaks to U of A students in SUB.

CARLTON CRAWFORD

## NDP slams Conservative postsecondary plan

**JAMES STORRKE**  
News Writer

NDP candidate Raj Pannu presented in SUB yesterday promoting the party's plan to roll back tuition fees and criticizing the Conservative government for not investing in the next generation.

The letter accuses the provincial Conservative party of eleven years of failed postsecondary policies, expressing concern that Albertan students have been handed a "debt sentence" and outlining specific portions of the NDP platform meant to address these issues.

"Under the Tory government's watch tuition has tripled, classes are overcrowded ... institutions have hundreds of millions in deferred maintenance costs, students are graduating with tens of thousands in student debt, students and families are now forced to take on private debt, because government loans don't keep pace with the skyrocketing tuition and the cost of living," said Pannu.

"The whole situation adds up to a debt sentence—not a death sentence, but debt sentence—for a generation of young Albertans, and a segregation of our public, acceptable postsecondary education system.

The endorsements came from past and present chairs of the Council of Alberta University Students Anand Sharma and Shirley Barg, as well as 2002/03 president of the University of Lethbridge Students' Union Melanee Thomas, Red Deer College Students' Association councilor Jeff Sloychuk and Red Deer College Board of Governors representative Barret Walker. Barg is also the NDP provincial candidate for Edmonton-Decore.

The NDP platform, Sloychuk said, centres on a ten per cent tuition reduction followed by a tuition freeze, with funding to be supported by special grants of public funds. Many institutions are running at more of a deficit than they may appear to be, he noted, thanks to issues of deferred maintenance costs and infrastructure deficit.

"Red Deer College alone is already at an infrastructure deficit of \$29 million. We need to restore the relationship [between the government] and postsecondary institutions by increasing the base operating grants to better keep pace with enrolments and inflation," said Sloychuk.

"Funding for students must be increased to reflect the real cost of living in this province," he said, adding that this could be obtained by reducing restrictions on student loans or increasing monthly allowances.

Barg contended that none of these concerns will be adequately dealt with

through negotiations with the provincial Conservatives.

"We've seen them drag their feet—and other body parts—for years. ... We have seen how the Learning Ministry operates. After consultation and consultation, there has been little to no change," she said.

According to Pannu, a tuition roll-back is badly needed.

"But if you freeze tuition you will cut revenue to schools, and we insist that revenue must be made up for," he said.

**"Funding for students must be increased to reflect the real cost of living in this province."**

**JEFF SLOYCHUK,**  
RED DEER COLLEGE  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

But Pannu explained that this revenue can be replaced with public funds, and the need is pressing.

"I had a meeting with the provost and the vice-president (academic) just three weeks ago," said Dr Pannu.

"He and I went over the financial situation in which the University finds itself. Unless the government comes forward with special funding that will take care of the year's pressing financial needs, the University will have to raise tuition by the maximum allowed amount."

The Conservatives, Dr Pannu explains, would want that funding to come from corporate donors.

"The minister of learning [Lyle Oberg] meets with the presidents of universities and colleges regularly to explain the government's intentions and expectations: one of those is that the universities and colleges get into deeper relations with the corporate sector," he claimed.

Such ties would damage institutions' autonomy and reduce their ability to perform unbiased research, in Pannu's view. He added that students have a great stake in how the government views postsecondary, and should stand up for their best interests.

"Most of the students I meet hardly have any time to spend on rallies or political activities and this is unfortunate," said Pannu.

"Universities and colleges are where the new political culture should be nurtured, and student participation is very important. I would encourage students to take an interest in politics, because it are the decisions that will affect their daily lives ... and their futures."





"I DO" Another provincial court gives the okay for same-sex marriage.

## Saskatchewan legalizes gay marriage

ROBERT KOTYK  
Central Bureau Chief

WINNIPEG (CUP)—A Saskatchewan court legalized same-sex marriage on 5 November, making the province the seventh jurisdiction in the country to change the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples.

The decision follows similar precedents set in Québec, British Columbia, Ontario, Manitoba, the Yukon and Nova Scotia.

Cicely McWilliam, a representative of the group Canadians for Equal Marriage, said 85 per cent of Canadians now have access to same-sex marriage.

"We're very pleased," she said. "There's still a ways to go yet. We can see the finish line, but in politics sometimes the finish line gets moved. So, we still need to ensure that federal legislation is passed so that all Canadians have the equal right to

marry."

Five Saskatoon couples brought the case to court when they were initially turned down for marriage licenses.

Justice Donna Wilson of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench ruled in favour of the couples, finding current marriage laws discriminate against gay men and lesbians.

Donna Smith, co-chair of Saskatchewan's chapter of Canadians for Equal Marriage, said she had hoped the provincial government would have arrived at the decision on its own.

"It did happen quite quickly overall," she said.

"Although Saskatchewan, I thought, could have been a bit more proactive in taking on an NDP social-government stance and done it without being forced by the courts."

A July survey released by the Centre for Research and Information on Canada in conjunction with Environics showed 57 per cent of

Canadians agree the definition of marriage should be extended to same-sex couples. Thirty-eight per cent of those polled disagreed.

The Saskatchewan decision stands in stark contrast to the results of the US election on 2 November, in which eleven out of eleven states voting on the issue rejected same-sex marriage.

Newfoundland and Labrador is thought to be the next Canadian province to legalize same-sex marriage. Two couples denied marriage licenses there have filed in court to overturn the ban.

Tim Smith, former president of the group Gays, Bisexuals and Lesbians at the University of Regina, said the decision is a natural extension of what has already occurred in the six other Canadian jurisdictions.

"Gay and lesbian people are being afforded the same rights that everyone else is across the country," he said.

"You can see it happen here in Saskatchewan, too."

## York University considers smoking ban

FRANÇOIS VILLENEUVE  
The Excalibur

TORONTO (CUP)—Smokers at York University—even those used to smoking in sheltered areas, including out-of-the-way stairwells—may find themselves out in the cold if the school continues with plans to make the campus smoke-free.

The University has come under fire in the past year for not doing enough to stop people from smoking indoors.

Last winter, smoking in inappropriate places was brought to a student-issues roundtable, where different approaches were considered, from bringing in public health officers to introducing a smoking cessation program.

"The security thinks they're doing a good job keeping the colonnades clear of smoke. I think I would disagree with that," said Susan Gapka, a public policy and administration student.

Gapka said smokers should understand their cigarettes endanger the health of people around them.

"I understand people need to smoke, but sometimes it annoys me that I have to share it with them while I am walking by," said Gapka.

The University, for its part, is looking far beyond its colonnade. President Lorna Marsden is overseeing the Pink Lungs Project exploring the possibility of making the campus a non-smoking

zone by 2009, in time for York's 50th anniversary.

Joe Levy, a health policy and management professor at the University, cited the Ontario government's intention of banning smoking in public places as the initial justification for the planned ban. However, Levy said the University should be more proactive on the issue.

**"I understand people need to smoke, but sometimes it annoys me that I have to share it with them while I am walking by."**

SUSAN GAPKA,  
PUBLIC POLICY STUDENT,  
YORK UNIVERSITY

"At York, we should be leaders; we should not be beaten into following the law," said Levy.

"We don't want to bring police on campus to police us; we want to deal with this on our own. We want to make a program to deal with this."

Not all smokers think a smoking cessation program would help.

"If I was looking to quit, I'd quit on my own terms. If more of my tuition

is going to go towards [a smoking cessation] program, I would say no," said Ann Brazao, a humanities student.

Levy said a committee is looking at what resources are available, the possibility of hosting forums about the issue and initiating health education programs to help smokers who would like to quit.

Gapka disagrees with the implementation of a smoking ban on campus.

"Just like students will drink whether you tell them to or not, students will smoke nicotine, cigarettes, whether you tell them to or not," she said.

She suggested a total ban on smoking would actually bring smokers to expose themselves to other risks.

"Those students who do smoke and don't or cannot stop will simply smoke in other locations where they can't be seen or caught. They will do it in out-of-the-way locations, such as stairwells or parking lots," said Gapka.

She favours the creation of designated smoking areas rather than an all-out ban, along with information for students who want to stop smoking.

"You cannot [legislate] abstinence. It failed through history, either with drugs, sex or alcohol," said Gapka.

Levy sees a ban on smoking on University grounds as inevitable, but said he does think the University will have to show some flexibility.

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## Klein has no reason to be running again

APATHY AMONG VOTERS is a crippling and sad part of any democracy. We witness it year after year on our own campus in our deplorable attendance. Students' Union elections. We see it time and again at every level of government whenever there's an election. And, really, there's no excuse for this apathy. The decisions our elected representatives make affect all of us, whether those effects are felt by voters immediately or not. And a functional democracy needs participants, no matter how hard done by they are to get out and vote.

But what's a voter to do when the people running for office can't even be bothered to campaign, much less care? Enter Ralph Klein, our less-than-enthusiastic premier-to-be (again). Grown so lazy from three successful provincial elections, so unenthused by sitting through session after session at the provincial legislature, and so embarrassingly paranoid that someone might try to unseat him—or even suggest that he's doing a bad job—Klein's decided to throw his hat into the ring one more time.

And I don't think anyone is really sure why. Klein's been at this for over twelve years. He's made his mark: it costs a small fortune to go to university, healthcare in this province is on the path to privatization, and the homeless shrink away in fear whenever Klein's shadow crosses their path. If it's a legacy Klein's interested in, he's got it. He is simultaneously the most revered and reviled conservative in all of Canada. Liberal provinces shake their heads when they hear his name, and conservative ones raise their arms in congratulatory gestures of high-five-tude. But through his reputation precedes him, his current actions—running in this most recent provincial election—still seem mysterious. I mean, sure, Klein might want to shore up the whole healthcare thing, and maybe toss a few surplus dollars around, but his continuing reign and current disdain for Joe Voter does nothing to champion the Conservative cause in this province. While the PCs will likely still win a handy majority, Klein's actions and inaction will also hurt the party. How can the people of this province rally behind someone with his hands in his pockets kicking at the dirt in the Legislature parking lot, grumbling any time one of those bloody voters wants him to, you know, actually do something?

I think, somewhere over the years, Klein lost his way. He's coming to the end of his provincial political career. And, well, he's run in the last three elections; what the hell else was he supposed to do? Not step down. No, that would be ridiculous. What the simple answer is to him without Ralph Klein? The simple answer is this: better off.

Conservative, Liberal, NDP: it doesn't matter what government is in place. Any leader who's been around for as long as Klein will stagnate. And it looks as though, certainly based on his public behaviour anyway, Klein's doing just that. He's lost his drive, and doesn't have the wherewithal to gracefully bow out of provincial politics.

But, hey, he could always resign in the middle of his term. I don't think anyone here would be very sad about that. Least of all the homeless.

ADAM ROZENHART  
Editor-in-Chief

## Football is just a game

AFTER SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS' kicker Paul McCullum missed a short field goal at the end of the CFL's western final, his home was targeted by disgruntled (and, presumably, incredibly intoxicated) Raider fans in three separate incidents. His house was egged, his family threatened, and a giant load of manure dumped on his neighbor's lawn by someone whose aim and intelligence were clearly comparable.

It's one thing to take your sports seriously—a habit that I wholeheartedly encourage—but it's quite another to take them stupidly. The morons who terrorized the McCullum family on Sunday are likely the same sort who would vilify Ricardo Montalban for trying to kill Captain Kirk. It sometimes baffles me that a game as complex as football could possibly hold the interest of minds such as theirs.

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Sports Editor

## LETTERS

### SU protests 'silly and inappropriate'

In response to the downright silly and inappropriate actions of the protesters and SU this past weekend, I just have to say what is wrong with these people? You should not be trying to influence voters—that isn't your job. You should not be interfering with people's lives—that isn't your job. You should not be annoying those who control your budget—that's not your job either.

Your job is to get results. Results do not come from pathetic publicity stunts, constant nagging and propaganda attacks, or from making enemies of those you should be working with. The SU should be placing itself into a negotiating position with the provincial government, rather than an adversarial one. Why is postsecondary supposedly not a priority? Because those expressing the view act like jerks! And by the way, it is a priority, just not in the "Spend, spend, spend" way you want it to be.

And besides, our problems with regards to money are not with funding, but largely with the University's spending. The amount of money wasted around the University on stupid junk like these advertising campaigns and tons of other useless programs and projects, not to mention as a specific example the salary of our SU presidents, is enormous. The SU should be taking care of business at home rather than whining for money that should not have been spent in the first place. Want tuition to drop? Reign things in. Or is that, too simple? Do we need the streets paved with pork? Or how about increasing revenues? It doesn't take a genius to know how badly the University capitalizes on its opportunities for deals with businesses. How about getting something done for a change, instead of the continual whining and alienation you're usually such a part of?

TJ KEIL  
Political Science III

### Plenty of gay idols, if you know where to look

I am writing in response to Tyson Kaban's article "I want a real, manly gay idol" (16 November). After reading this, being a proud gay man, I was a little upset that Kaban ignores many gay idols out there, dismisses others who have done amazing things for us, and also isn't seeing the most obvious gay idols we have.

First, there is the fact that he ignored some "manly" gay idols that exist today, like Richard Hatch, winner of *Survivor*, and actor Rupert Everett. Also in regards to a man in *People* magazine calling out to him, take Kyan from *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*. This gorgeous man was named one of *People* Society's Men of the Year, and his picture definitely said "Wanna fuck?" There are lots of "manly" gay idols out there that one can look to if they need that to justify their sexuality.

As well, there is the fact that Kaban dismissed people such as Elton John and RuPaul as less than

quality gay idols. These men are the type to embrace their sexuality and throw it in a less liberal society's face and say, "I'm gay! Deal with it!" These men, although maybe not your "standard manliness," are a lot more manly than most Alpha males today, foremost for the fact they are proud of who they are and aren't willing to conform to an overused stereotype of a "manly man."

Finally I want to point out, not only to Kaban, but to all GLBT youth and individuals who are reading this, that the best gay idols aren't the celebrities that are all over the magazines, but the people in your community. I have two gay idols, one a former VP of Lister Centre, and one currently an RA at International House, who I strongly admire for what they have done. They have helped me become comfortable with my sexuality and this in turn led me to consider them the ultimate gay idols!

Kaban, you yourself could be considered an idol, since being a journalist gives you the opportunity to say "I am gay! Deal with it!" making you a valuable candidate. If you gonna take that stance? Stop looking to the newstand for your idols and look for the ones in your community.

TOPHER McFARLANE  
Sociology III

### Kudos to Berry for stirring up controversy

While reading David Berry's article "The U of A doesn't need cheerleaders" in the 4 November issue of the *Gateway*, I knew exactly the response it would generate. So did Mr. Berry.

Even though I disagree with his opinion in the area, I can appreciate the controversy stirred up by such an article. It was encouraging to be reminded that a student body, who walk around most of the time with blank expressions on their faces, can still have strong opinions. Kudos to David Berry.

GREG WOLBECK  
Engineering III

### Spandex shorts more than 'hot pants'

In response to an opinion submitted on Tuesday, 9 November, it is important to provide some missing information ("Women's sports are more than hot pants"). It was suggested that the Pandas volleyball team wears spandex uniform bottoms to sell the sport, rather than to serve any functional purpose. However, spandex seems to be on many other playing surfaces without needing justification, but apparently the functional role in volleyball has been missed. The following list will shed some light on to why this uniform has been so accepted by the athletes and does influence performance.

First, volleyball is an anaerobic sport characterized by brief explosive movements followed by long intervals of rest. The power/efficiency of jumping requires full use of the gluteals, hamstrings, and quadriceps. Spandex compression shorts assist in maintaining the warmth of these muscles during the intervals of rest and may help avoid possible injury.

Second, defensive play in volleyball often requires players to go to the floor to dig a ball. This results in contact between the skin and floor, often at higher speeds. A uniform bottom that does not fit tightly will not protect the defender's skin in this situation and results in floor burns. Spandex bottoms eliminate this problem.

Finally, the men also wear spandex compression shorts under their uniform and practice shorts for these reasons.

Lately the majority of media attention we have received has not been about our skills or abilities, and that is very unfortunate. What is more unfortunate, however, is that still these articles are being published and rules are being passed without doing the most important thing: asking the athletes. We will tell you why our uniforms are as they are and we will tell you why we continue to change on the bench. All we ask is that people accept the

culture of our sport and do not criticize it or try to change it without first understanding why it is done.

We are very passionate about our sport and we are very serious about our sport. Thank you to everyone who has supported and encouraged us in our decision to preserve our culture.

PAMELA PARKER  
Pandas Volleyball

### Gaumont 'misguided'

I really have to commend Adam Gaumont on his article "Political spectrum hurts free thinking, politics thought and divides us all" (16 November). He makes a good point in saying that by labeling yourself, you shut off critical thinking. It's a shame that he uses such asinine logic to get to that point, though.

Gaumont's assertion that people will choose positions solely because they consider themselves "left" or "right" is moronic. There are, for example, a multitude of gay right-wingers. Using Gaumont's logic, these people must not think they have the right to marry, simply because they happen to agree with conservative fiscal policy. And I wonder how many environmentalists actually take up "left-wing" anti-capitalist stances solely because they think, "Wait a minute, I'm left-wing—I have to be anti-capitalist. And also pro-welfare and pro-choice!" If Gaumont seriously knows anyone whose ideological beliefs inform their opinions (a question: where did people get these ideological beliefs from in the first place, if not their opinions?), I sincerely suggest he find a new circle of friends. In the meantime, he could try writing articles that take his own advice, and actually involve freethinking instead of misguided logic and rhetoric.

COLIN CLOUTIER  
History III

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters. Letters should be sent to opinion@gateway.alberta.ca.

# Uniting the left is the province's only hope



ROSS  
PRUSAKOWSKI

In slightly less than a week, the voters of this province will head to the polls and hand King Ralph and his Progressive Conservatives another term. This will not only bolster the nauseating idea that the PCs are Alberta's eternal governing party, but will also preserve our miserable streak of 99 years as a province with only four different governments.

Sure, the case could be made that nearly three and a half decades in power means that people really like the Conservatives and the changes they have made to the province. Though using the same logic, one could also argue that Preston Manning had the voice of an angel and Lucien Bouchard was just a normal guy, if a little misunderstood.

With low voter turnout, the fact is that the Conservatives have been returned to power by less than half the citizens in each of the last three elections, and many Albertans are growing tired of the PC's insolence, arrogance and increasingly bad governing. The truth is that for too long the Conservatives have lived like Deceptions lacking Autobots—

they've lacked any true opposition to keep them in check. A single, united party on the left would force the PCs to improve, give Alberta a better political system, and destroy the current one-party domination of the province.

**For too long the two parties that reside on the left have not only been fighting the Conservatives tooth and nail, but each other as well, wasting precious resources that neither party can afford.**

The only problem is that the Liberals and New Democrats are too thick to realize that by competing against each other, they're killing any chance of either getting into power. Both parties possess similar ideas and attitudes regarding post-secondary education, healthcare and a fair number of other issues facing Alberta, and a united party could strongly promote these values. Even the areas where the two parties currently differ are minor enough that a united alternative they could func-

tion well and massively improve on where they sit today.

For too long the two parties that reside on the left have not only been fighting the Conservatives tooth and nail, but each other as well, wasting precious resources that neither party can afford. If they were to join together and pool their wealth, more people might know what the platform of the left is, who the leader is, and that Alberta honestly has a real opposition party.

Besides, it's not like the uniting of two political parties is an impossible ideal. In BC, disparate Social Credit and Conservative parties have come together to pervert the Liberal name and rise in power, and federalists from across the political spectrum have managed to unite under one banner in Québec. Even the reckless, right-of-centre inhabitants of our little bastion of insanity, Ottawa, realized they were a stronger force and better alternative as one party.

Being stronger is what it all boils down to, because as long as there is no single party able to draw from a well-built base of support that's able to provide a reasonable challenge to our eternal governing party, the Conservatives will continue to reign. Both the Liberals and New Democrats must swallow some pride and admit that a single party is better than two, not only for their ideas and values but also for the whole province.

# Social-service-hating amnesiacs, vote Klein



ADAM  
SNIDER

Eureka! I've found it: the reason why the Klein government gets elected term after term in this province. Okay, "eureka" might have been a bit strong. I haven't come up with a single, definitive answer to this mystery, but after years of being baffled, I've narrowed it down to the three most likely explanations.

The simplest solution is that Albertans suffer from some bizarre form of collective amnesia that strikes approximately once every four years. Let's call it some-bizarre-form-of-collective-amnesia-that-strikes-approximately-once-every-four-years. While in this state, Albertans are unable to remember any of the ridiculous stunts Klein has pulled over the years. Drunk and belligerent at a homeless shelter? Nope, don't remember that. Refused to use commercial airlines because he couldn't smoke on the plane? Hmmm, can't seem to remember that either. Curiously, this amnesia doesn't seem to block the memory of receiving a bit of spare change in the form of a gas rebate cheque from good ol' Ralph.

Of course, if that isn't the case, there's always the possibility that Albertans hate public healthcare. And education. And the myriad of other social services the Conservative government has cut over the course of King Ralph's twelve-year reign. After all, if Albertans valued these institutions, they wouldn't elect someone who sees them as nothing more than easy budget cuts time and time again. Sure, the Tories inject some money into healthcare and education once in a while, but these injections always amount to less than what was cut in

the first place. So, while short term gains are made, these institutions are still worse off, overall, than before the original budget cuts. But Albertans apparently hate healthcare, education, and other public services, so, as Martha "Jailbird" Stewart would say, it's a good thing.

If neither of those explanations works for you, maybe you'll agree that Albertans are just plain stupid. The *Edmonton Journal* ran an article on Monday which stated that even the harshest critics of the Klein government would not consider voting for anyone else. The same article quoted a cattle buyer who said that, while he hears people talking about change, he doesn't see anyone throwing their support behind other parties. Of all the people quoted in the article, none offered an alternative to the Conservatives, no matter how unhappy they were with the Klein government's record.

A few days earlier, the *Journal* ran

a letter in which a woman, who fully intended to vote for Klein, hoped the election would result in a minority government for the Conservatives to wake the party up to the fact that they've been doing a pretty crappy job of governing the province lately. It makes no sense to continue to support a government you are unhappy with. There's a name for people who have the ability to change a situation that they're unhappy with but don't: idiots.

So, while I'm not sure exactly which of these explanations, or combination thereof, is the right one, I feel confident in putting them out there as the three most likely reasons why the Tories have continually been in power in Alberta since 1971—and why, come 22 November, Ralph Klein will be elected premier of Alberta once again. Albertans either are stupid, hate social services, suffer from a rare form of amnesia, or they're stupid, social-service-hating amnesiacs. Think I'm wrong? Prove it on election day.

even running again, but I think it's more fitting that we keep things in perspective.

Another Klein victory just proves that we as Albertans don't have the foresight to see how much damage the Conservatives can do when they've lost the vision that once made them such a strong political force. And lost their vision they have.

So into the sack you Mr Premier, for whatever your inaugural screw-up will be upon resuming your office. Hopefully, it won't be too serious. But then again your idea of a political scandal involves a bottle of bourbon and a trip to the homeless shelter.

SCOTT C. BOURGEOIS

The *Burlap Sack* is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

THE BURLAP  
SACK

I'd like to take this opportunity to stick our esteemed premier in the burlap sack and give him a sound thrashing. Not for anything he's done mind you, but a pre-emptive sack beating for all the shit we'll have to put up with when he's re-elected.

Seriously, the chances of King Ralph losing are slim, even if he is running a campaign based solely on his incumbency. And we're going to be subjected to more of the same—or possibly even worse now that we know just how lost the Conservative party is when they don't have the issue of the debt to focus on.

Now admittedly, Ralph deserves a sound thrashing for the fact that he's going to be re-elected at all, or

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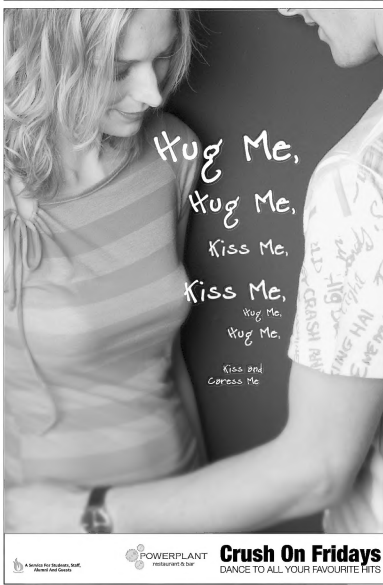
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# Misinformed thinking is what leads to re-election of Bush, Klein

CHAD  
BARISCH

"Furthermore, these people seem fully convinced that now that the debt is gone, real money will start flowing into the many priority areas of concern. The electorate in this province must have lost its critical mind. Moreover, those of you on campus who espouse such views should feel ashamed."

Misinformation is like a malignant tumor. A few weeks ago, we witnessed an administration that is directly responsible for the deaths of over 100 000 Iraqi civilians and the worst American deficit on record slither its way to a second term. On Monday, Albertans will most likely allow the same thing to happen, albeit on a much smaller scale. Still, the reasons behind these events are eerily similar.

Although funding cuts ranging from healthcare to education stretch further back than Klein's three terms in office, his government has done its fair share in expediting the process. However, this is but the symptom, as the electorate is where one should place fault. The people of Alberta, much like those who returned the chimp to Washington, have repeatedly allowed mindless and misinformed rhetoric to get the best of them. In past elections, it's been "Ralph listens, Ralph cares." This time, the catch phrase is "Proud to be Albertan."

The subtext here is that voting for anyone else would be un-Albertan. This illusory image in Alberta politics that only Ralph can be entrusted with Alberta's oil windfall is ludicrous. However, even some of the

more educated in our province have fallen victim to the disease of misinformation.

Many people around the province, including people on campus, have argued that through both good fortune and good government, our debt-free status has been achieved. Good fortune, absolutely. Good government is definitely a stretch.

This province is so drenched in the black stickiness that is oil, a monkey using an abacus could have balanced the budget, paid off the debt, and written a country-western song about it. Furthermore, these people seem fully convinced that now that the debt is gone, real money will start flowing into the many priority areas of concern.

The electorate in this province must have lost its critical mind. Moreover, those of you on campus who espouse such views should feel ashamed. The end cost of postsecondary education in the province of Alberta has shot up almost 300 per cent since 1993. Even if you're a strict capitalist-conservative ideologue, believing strongly in market forces, inflationary growth over the same period has only been an estimated 30 per cent.

However, instead of questioning

current government practice, we continue to flock to Uncle Ralph's well of political ignorance. For example, last week Klein assured us that he will consult with the "Henry and Marthas" after the campaign, as now is not the time to talk about political vision.

Even though that type of rhetoric completely undermines the very basis of democracy, Klein's astounding support—outside of Edmonton, anyway—hasn't dropped more than a few percentage points. The dissemination of misinformation has apparently been successful.

If the old moniker about Alberta being the "Texas of the North" is true, then Klein will most likely be given another blank cheque to continue his ideologically driven experiment, with the only media check being the Ken and Barbie show that is Global News.

Nevertheless, I beg of those considering voting for Ralph in this upcoming election to do some research, or at the very least look at some of your options before more students on this campus, and indeed the entire provincial electorate, fall victim to an Alberta-made version of what occurred in America a few short weeks ago.

# Klein is the only choice

DAVID  
BERRY

his rapier wit, particularly around AISH recipients. Perhaps it's his unique ability to actually admit he doesn't really care about issues in a leadership debate and not suffer much in the way of consequences. Maybe he actually has some kind of secret superpowers that would allow him to balance the budget and give each Albertan \$3000 and their choice of robot slave.

If you look around this newspaper, or for that matter take a walk around campus, you're likely to notice a fairly healthy dose of anti-Ralph Klein sentiment. While this is certainly nothing new, probably due to the slightly left leanings of your average campus, it is a bit shocking to see this kind of feeling happening off campus grounds.

Everyone from the crabby old people who write letters to the *Journal* to the Klein-hummers over at the *Edmonton Sun* have publicly questioned our premier's ability to govern. The *Sun*, for the love of God—Klein has practically edited that paper for the past ten or so years. All these people questioning Klein's ability to govern can only mean one thing: Klein is the right man to lead our province.

Look, in case you haven't noticed, people are generally pretty big idiots. People are the ones who kept voting for Klein as he was cutting their education and healthcare and pissing away oil money. People are the ones who drive Hummers despite the fact they never actually leave Sherwood Park city limits. People are the ones who cause cancer. And anytime that this large a group of them get together against something, you have to think that that thing has something going for it.

Now, I'll be the first admit that I'm not sure exactly what Klein has that makes him a great leader. Maybe it's

**All these people questioning Klein's ability to govern can only mean one thing: Klein is the right man to lead our province.**

Whatever it is, the mass public has somehow subconsciously figured out what exactly would make Klein such a stellar leader and, naturally, immediately began calling for someone else to lead us. Or, I guess, the *Sun* could actually be right for once. And women actually find me attractive.

The point is that they clearly know something that I haven't realized yet, and I for one am not going to wait for "facts" or "good reasons" to decide that Klein is the only good choice to lead our province. I never would have considered it before, but the simple fact that a huge mass of people—the same group that likes *Napoleon Dynamite*, as you'll recall—also seem to think Klein is some kind of anti-Christ is good enough reason to me to mark down my vote for the PC party.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to go find a place for my robot slave.

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# Sex sells, but it doesn't sell toothpaste

IRIS  
TSE

Given that crime shows are the new black, I was half expecting to see a brand-new offering of *CSI: Nantucket* when I plopped in front of the TV last night. However, instead of dead bodies, formulaic storylines and magical crime-solving abilities at the 50-minute mark, I was surprisingly confronted by some scantily-clad lady prancing around my TV screen.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, it wasn't the insult to feminism/prime-time soft-core porn known as the Victoria's Secret "fashion" show. No, my friend, this was way worse. Instead of trying to sell me rhinestone studded push-up bras, this scantily-clad lady was trying to sell me desensitizing toothpaste.

As if that wasn't enough, the creators of the commercial saw fit to throw in a crotch shot while they were at it. I wasn't sure if I was shocked or appalled, though probably both. Perhaps I'm old fashioned, but one would expect a toothpaste commercial to include, oh, I don't know, people brushing their teeth, but certainly not crotch shots. In fact, the only time "crotch" and "toothpaste" belong in the same sentence is when you're explaining your minny fetish to Dan Savage.

Now, don't get me wrong. I know sex sells. Tennis matches are made more attractive by the napkin-sized skirts worn by the female players. Lindsey Lohan's breasts are grabbing more headlines than her "acting" and "singing." And then there are shows like *Desperate Housewives*.

But it's going way beyond that nowadays. Last I checked, a certain shampoo still clamours for our attention by convincing us that their brand can give us a better orgasm than a human counterpart, and one gum ad even implied that by chewing their stuff,



WASH ME No matter how sexy this man is, he shouldn't be selling soap.

you'd be rewarded with spontaneous sex in public places. What's next? Swiffer Dusters? Lysol? Pizza Pops?

And seeing this, one has to wonder if sex is really selling anymore. Sure, the brand recognition is superb, but not too many of us buy a can of pop just because some gyrating pop-tart endorses it.

Let's forget, our SU tried the same route by plastering the campus with dildo posters in the last election, and they got a pitiful 25 per cent voter turnout for their trouble. And I really doubt that something as inherently unsexy as toothpaste is going to benefit from a few crotch shots and sexual innuendo.

Obviously, sex isn't the solution for every ad campaign. But with the way it is right now, it seems the dingbats who create these ads are too stupid to come

up with something not involving the missionary position. Apparently the entire human population has turned into nymphomaniacs, so sexually deprived that there's no better way to attract our attention than the promise of sex.

Nowadays, popular media is saturated with sexual images as is. It's impossible to tune in to any primetime TV show without some obligatory sexual content, and surely copying a page from the *Kama Sutra* isn't the best way to distinguish your product from the shows themselves. Here's a tip to the ad guys: leave out the crotch shots and try coming up with something more creative the next time you try to sell me toothpaste.

In the meantime, I'm going to go chew some gum outside a photo booth.

# Videogames won't save you

DERREK  
GREBSKI

I can't believe you're reading this. In fact, I can't even believe that you're in class this week at all, what with the release of the much ballyhooed videogame *Halo 2*. Literally twice as good as *Halo*, *Halo 2* is so tremendously super-fantastic that it has become the first game I can recall being worthy of discussion on traditional news programs such as *Global News* at 6, and, more importantly, *Global News* at 11.

Unfortunately, this baffling increase in mainstream publicity will be accompanied by the omnipresent videogame apologists who figure it's about time "gaming" is recognized as a legitimate sport. Even worse will be those who can't stand the idea of videogames being neglected as a reasonable means of youth education. "It increases manual dexterity in kids," they proclaim, which makes me want to laugh until I vomit into my hat. Little Timmy can't cobble together a coherent sentence or calculate the change for his Happy Meal, but he sure can slay those aliens with remarkable efficiency. I weep for the future.

Despite the fact that I find videogames in general about as riveting as a *Hutterite* romance novel, I have no problem with those who view them as a casual hobby. It's the mouth-breathers who construct shantytowns outside the local electronics retailer on the eve of a new release who deserve scorn. Invariably, it's the same doughy mass of humanity that is most interested in justifying this obsession by proclaiming its miraculous qualities. I often wonder who they're really trying to convince: me, or themselves.

It's no secret that just about anything can become an obsession to a point where one is willing to sacrifice a marriage, job or physical health, but it's interesting that militant "gamers" seem to be the only demographic that

wishes to inflict its albatross on others to feel vindicated. When was the last time you read a wandering rant by an indignant stamp collector wondering why his hobby isn't used educationally? Just look at the math skills required to, you know, count stamps. How about glass-blowing? There's something that damned sure requires dexterity, yet I've yet to hear a peep out of those people.

**It's the mouth-breathers who construct shantytowns outside the local electronics retailer on the eve of a new release who deserve scorn.**

If you ask me, and nobody ever, ever does, it's all just junk rhetoric used to justify the endless hours wasted in front of the TV for themselves and their kids. An Xbox makes a spectacular babysitter, and instead of feeling guilty about the fact that little Timmy can't identify a Frisbee and hasn't seen the sun in two weeks, useless parents fire up the old rationalization machine.

Meanwhile, hands are wrung far and wide as kids grow inexplicably fatter and fatter. I can't reasonably blame videogames for this entirely, but it's interesting to note that this didn't seem to be a problem 20 years ago, when there simply wasn't the same endless cavalcade of electronic entertainment. Everyone I knew was involved in community sports of some kind, and now I hear the tales of some leagues being unable to drum up enough interest to field teams at all. Make of that what you will.

If nothing else, I certainly feel secure in the knowledge that when the alien invasion finally comes, the generation of videogame geniuses will be well equipped to defend Grandpa Derrek from the forces of evil. If even that fails, at least I will have a whole shed of nice, fat carcasses to hide behind.

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# Healthcare costs aren't 'out of control' It's time hair was sexy again



PIOTR  
KLAWNSKI

Contrary to what some politicians and their overly empathetic media propagate, there is no healthcare crisis in Alberta. Reports of "out-of-control" healthcare expenditures have been manufactured from misleading numbers—statistics not controlled for population growth and inflation—plucked from a few years in order to produce the needed evidence. Such "official" reports are inappropriate and misleading—no better than rhetoric of weapons of mass destruction—and only fuel the current climate of fear that has blanketed the West.

Why does the government cry about unsustainable healthcare costs? Comparisons of healthcare costs in real dollars—such as those found in the Romanow, Parkland Institute and Thompson reports—that account for inflation and population growth conclude that there have been only modest rises in healthcare costs. Compare that to "official" reports of increased annual spending since Klein took power in 1992 that state increases of ten per cent per year; in real dollars, the spending is five-fold less, at 1.6 per cent per year.

In fact, healthcare spending in Alberta in 2003 was about the same as a decade ago, at just over five per cent of the GDP. Then there is the supposed 900 per cent increase in healthcare spending in Alberta from 1975–2001. Taking into account inflation, population growth and aging, the "900 per

cent" increase proves to be less than 20 per cent, spread gradually over more than a quarter century, according to Dr Thompson's report.

The government also claims that privatization will reduce the costs of healthcare. However, consider that until the 1960s, Canadians and Americans had similar systems and similar health. Today, the US spends over 14 per cent of their economy on healthcare, while we spend less than ten; half of this difference is due to higher overhead in the US private system. As well, Canadians live 2.5 years longer and infant mortality is 30 per cent lower compared to our privatization-happy neighbours. Since private-sector solutions elevate costs while decreasing service quality—according to the Rachlis report of 2004—it is both possible and necessary to implement innovations without private financing or for-profit delivery.

As a matter of fact, some of the fastest-growing costs in healthcare are those involving the private sector—things like prescription drugs, insurance administration, and dental and eye care. Further reductions in the public purse will offload even more to

the individual. During the last decade, out-of-pocket expenses already rose at double the rate of government expenditures. Since Canada's prescription-drug bill continues to escalate at more than ten per cent annually, a national drug plan could reduce ten per cent in costs through bulk buying and lower administrative expenses. As for pre-emptive action, priority should be given to the prevention of the majority of causes of diseases and to the reduction in reliance on pharmaceuticals.

The government has manufactured a fiscal crisis in our healthcare system in their latest attempt to "manufacture consent." So where is the evidence? Right next to the WMDs, apparently. It's obvious that these reasons are ideological, not fiscal. Dramatic systemic and policy changes—such as privatization, user fees, delisting of services and delivery of services outside the domain of the Canada Health Act—based on runaway healthcare costs cannot be justified. Unless, of course, our government expects us to welcome their pre-emptive healthcare reforms based on some misleading snapshots and made-up evidence.



TIM  
PEPPIN

it provides warmth in the winter, shielding its bearer from gusty drafts that might kill a sparser man. It affords a kinship with other mammals that is denied to the hairless, and earns one the respect and admiration of all barbers. It stymies the efforts of mosquitoes. It conceals blemishes and ripples delightfully in the breeze. Function and allure. I fail to see the drawbacks.

In any case, I think we hairy men deserve a support group of some sort. Coming to grips with your undesirability is quite traumatic. I'm not actually interested in the tedious process of creating one, or with being in close contact with large numbers of other hairy men—I am the product of my culture; you disgust me—and I most likely would not go to meetings if one did exist, but still, I think the idea merits some consideration. We are bombarded from all angles with images of hairless men: glabrous freaks who look like overgrown babies with shrunken heads. Swimmers shave their legs, porn stars shave their disease-infested genital regions, boxers pluck their eyebrows; we are beset on all sides by the glorification of hairlessness.

I, for one, would like to know when the madness will stop.

When will men rise up as one body against the pernicious iniquities of an obdurate and hair-deprived society? When will we band together to reclaim past glory? To bring about a golden age where we might walk shirtless down a sandy beach without having concerned passersby frantically phoning the zoo?

My brothers, I tell you, the day cannot come soon enough. Because my stubble is chafing.

## Dave Alexander's TOP TEN Signs you're in redneck heaven

- 10 It even has flush toilets.
- 9 Every night is rib night...and wing night!
- 8 It doesn't hurt when he smacks you.
- 7 Half of the clouds are up on blocks.
- 6 St Peter has a short-long.
- 5 Manna also available in Lite and Extra Strong.
- 4 One of the front gates is barely hanging on by a single hinge.
- 3 You don't need the rabbit ears to get CMT.
- 2 There's a pawnshop full of haps.
- 1 It's located entirely in a NASCAR beer tent.

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**SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT** We've been silent long enough, my first-year brethren.

## First years: stand up and make yourself heard



PAUL MOORE

I once thought that I was the greatest. No question about it: I was destined to the realm of legend, maybe even the next Gandhi. I was a leader: opinionated, strong and independent. I was intimidated by no one, unafraid of breaking the status quo. Golly, during the federal election I bought a Green Party T-shirt and wore it with pride in the Conservative stronghold of rural Alberta.

Ideological and informed, I had no constraints. If two months ago you had asked me, "What are you going to do with your life?" I would most certainly have responded with a dignified air of arrogance: "I'm going to change the world."

The funny thing is, it might still be true. Who knows, maybe this whole education thing will be worth it. Yet, on a campus of 30 000, I'm starved of the intellectual banter between ideologies, social movements and political abstractions. It's been over three months since I last debated democracy over a steaming latte.

My opinionated spinning wheels have been knocked right out of line. It's not that I've lost the passion; it's still all there. What is gone is the outlet. And, given my present scholastic environment, that loss of expression is painfully ironic.

For the first time in my life, I feel intimidated. Surrounded by some of our nation's finest scholars, who am I to proclaim political righteousness? I am a measly first year, the alcohol-intolerant dweeb asking stupid questions in Soc 100. I can't get from CAB to V-Wing without going outside, let alone stand up and debate fiscal policy, condemn bureaucracy,

or put my two cents into international relations issues amidst these enlightened elite.

But, perhaps that's how it should be. I've been vocal for so long, maybe it's time to sit back and listen for a while.

Okay, I tried that. And it sucks. I'm sorry, but silence in the face of controversy just isn't my thing. And I've got a feeling, newbies, that it's not yours either. We've made it through a couple of months of school, lived through our first midterms; we belong here now and it's time to be heard. All of you should start speaking your minds.

**We've made it through a couple of months of school, lived through our first midterms; we belong here now and it's time to be heard. All of you should start speaking your minds.**

As the political body of tomorrow, now is the time to begin flexing our surprisingly influential muscle. So, give your hung-over head a shake and do it. Get a beef with the Klein Conservatives? Great, let's hear it! Tired of our exploitation of the environment? Go to it, kiddo! Convinced education dollars would be better spent on NHL salaries? Well, I guess even that's okay.

Yes, you may be wrong. And I can guarantee you will feel like an idiot. But that is an essential part of the experience. Modesty and greatness are both learned, and that's exactly what we are here for. Savour the trials and know that, if all else fails, at least in two years you can laugh at the young folks who think they know everything.

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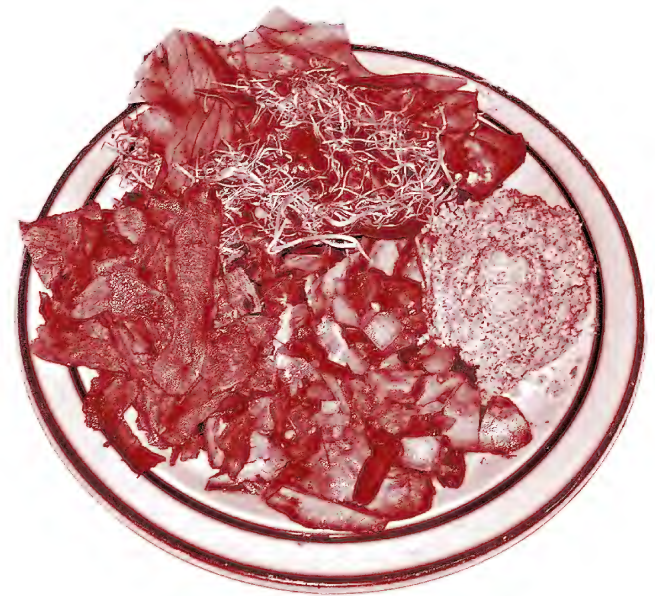
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# THE RAW DEAL

Not just for rabbits: the raw-food-only diet may soon come to a café near you

Feature by Candice Valantin  
The Ubyssy (CUP)



As I walk into the Living Source Café on Commercial Drive in Vancouver, I'm overwhelmed by the shiny hardwood floors and oversized glass sculptures that glimmer in the sunlight. Mark, the owner of the café, boasts that it is the only entirely raw restaurant in Vancouver. I've come to listen to Chris Iverson—a raw-food expert who helped Mark open this restaurant—speak about the raw-food lifestyle. I get a generous waft of sweet tobacco-less smoke as I walk across the room to where Iverson is holding his raw-food workshop.

Behind a barrier of dark maroon curtains hanging down to the floor, I see a room of 18 people staring attentively at Iverson as if attempting to absorb his knowledge by osmosis. He's conducting a two-day workshop and I've only stopped by for some tidbits. But I find myself lost in how Iverson raves about the latest raw products on the market. The conversation ranges from whether or not cashews are raw, to the benefits of the urine cleanse—which involves drinking one's own urine—to when the café's raw pies will be served.

Graham W. Boyes, a volunteer from the Raw Food Society of BC, emphatically tells me how much I missed at lunch: "Raw calzones! Better than at any Italian restaurant!"

Raw food is a growing fad, and has been edging its way towards the mainstream since the '60s. To learn more about the lifestyle, I caught up with Iverson at the Living Source Café and later at another raw-food joint, the Raw Food Café, to talk about living raw.

## STORY OF THE VEGGIE MAN

Thirty-six-year-old Chris Iverson has been a vegetarian for twelve years. He recalls the circumstances surrounding his crossover to the diet: "I was eating a normal diet full of Taco Bell and McDonald's ... and I saw this guy named The Juice Man on late-night TV. This old guy, he was like 70 or 80 years old but he looked like he was 50 or 40. He had so much energy I was just attracted to it. So I bought a juicer and started growing my own wheatgrass and immediately I felt the benefits," he says.

Iverson soon began working to introduce vegetarian restaurants and juice bars into rave nightclubs. Thereafter, he trained as a chef, living in Maui with Jeremy Saffron, who opened the first raw-food restaurant in the United States about ten years ago and has worked with "the best" of the raw-food world.

"The best" includes David Wolf, the author of *Eating for Beauty*, now considered the world authority on raw-food nutrition.

But Iverson only moved beyond vegetarianism and got hooked on raw food when something other than his stomach intervened. "I met this amazing goddess three years ago named Giselle. She was traveling with David Wolf, who is one of the leaders of live food."

"She was 100 per cent and told me that if I wasn't she wouldn't have anything to do with me. So I went 100 per cent for a while ... for love," Iverson remarks, and then

zones off for a while.

Besides the goddess Giselle, Iverson credits his enthusiasm for raw food to loving the concept of "healing people one meal at a time." He tells me enthusiastically, "Anybody can do it! They just have to learn how. I've always wanted to help people, and it's a great way to help people out."

## LIVING FOOD

As a diet largely followed by health-conscious individuals like Iverson, the raw-food diet seems strange to most. This skepticism is due in part to the inclusion of raw meat or "live" food in the full raw diet. When I first told a friend of mine about the live-food diet, her first comment was, "That doesn't sound very food-safe."

It is not recommended that one eat raw flesh unless one has significant insight as to its sources. But to break down the misunderstandings surrounding raw food, Iverson chops up the modern raw-food diet into four parts.

The first part, which comprises the majority of the diet, is reserved for fresh and raw vegetables—essentially anything you could throw into a salad.

The second part of the diet consists of dried or dehydrated food. Often this consists of a mixture of various items such as soaked chickpeas and sunflower seeds, mashed, shaped and dehydrated to create raw falafel, chips, or Iverson's famous calzones.

The third part is sprouted food. This involves soaking grains and seeds in water usually overnight or for a few hours until they begin to sprout.

The final part of the diet involves cultured food. This requires soaking seeds, grains or vegetables overnight—similar to the sprouting process—then rinsing and blending with fresh water. Then it must be left to sit at room temperature, "so that the good bacteria can grow," Iverson tells me. The adventurous may try seed cheese or kim-chee; others may want to stick to something more familiar like sauerkraut.

The advantages of the raw diet are varied. Besides instant weight loss, it provides the body with a plethora of vitamins and, apparently, all 96 minerals we need. And Iverson insists it helps solve the three most common immune-system problems: high acidity, candida (yeast-infection parasites) and de-mineralization. Most raw foodists claim they haven't been sick since they adopted their new diet.

But not everyone is so positive. Nutritionists warn that vitamin B12 as well as copper, chromium, zinc, calcium, protein and omega-3 fatty acids are lacking in the diet due to the absence of meat. To fill in the gaps, some may consider taking supplements.

For Iverson, the diet involves much more than a simple salad and a list of vitamins to check off. When properly balanced, it's not only food safe, he says, but absolutely

delicious and quite healthy. It's an art, and Iverson takes it to heart.

## RAW PAST AND PRESENT

Despite its growing trendiness, raw food is anything but a new fad. Records indicate that it was popular amongst ancient Hebrews. Inuit who subsisted mostly on fish, seals, caribou, and other game they could find, sometimes ate their food raw. JH Romig, a doctor who visited the Inuit in 1896 in the Bering Sea region, reported on their diet: "Their food was cooked mostly by boiling, and was rather rare; they ate as well, especially in winter, raw frozen fish and raw meat."

The raw diet didn't emerge as a popular trend until the 1960s, when Victor Klevinskus came over to the United States from Russia and taught Anne Wigmore how to sprout. Klevinskus is now credited for having started the raw movement, and Wigmore is well known in the raw community for her wheatgrass and other raw recipes. Now, David Wolfe has taken the reins.

Wolfe has been eating totally raw food for ten years now and hopes "to make raw-food nutrition the number-one subject of conversation on Planet Earth." The largest distributor of raw-food products "for a raw lifestyle," he holds raw adventure retreats in the US, Canada, Europe and the South Pacific.

The raw movement's profile has been raised by many famous names, including Woody Harrelson, Demi Moore, Robin Williams, Donna Karan, Sting, Madonna, Uma Thurman and Ryan Adams. Just recently, Harrelson himself was spotted at the Living Source Café in Vancouver and is said to be a big fan of Iverson's raw corn chips.

While New York is leading the international raw movement, many European countries are catching on. And with raw-food establishments in the US numbering in the hundreds, Canada is likely to see many more restaurants like the Living Source Café sprouting up, with individuals like Iverson at the helm.

## VANCOUVER SPROUTS

In Vancouver, the Raw Café near 2nd and Burrard holds weekly potlucks on Wednesday evenings at 7pm, where a welcoming crowd gathers, eager to share their knowledge. Iverson invited me to help him make a meal and scope the scene. Together we created a Mexican chipotle salad, and some spicy salsa to accompany his corn chips. The Raw Café crowd was very different than the raw foodists I'd met at the Living Source Café. More conservative—the sweater-vest and glasses type—they were still very friendly, hungry and willing to share their thoughts.

In the orderly line-up gathering before the food, I began talking to the guests. Lucas, a tall, slim Czechoslovakian, has been on the "mucus-less-diet healing system" for almost four months now. Lucas is a fruitarian, an extreme kind of raw foodist that only

eats fresh fruit. "It's sweet, juicy, delicious," he explains. "The ideal diet."

Arnold Ehret tells me he joined the raw movement for a completely different reason. "It's about how much garbage we leave behind us after we eat." Another raw foodist considered the more ethical reasons and simply couldn't deal with the horrors of the slaughterhouse. "Vegetarians have another consciousness to a certain degree."

But it was Brooks who said it best, and it was at this point that I was the closest to becoming a convert: "It's like a good love affair, raw food: it expands to fill in all the empty spaces."

After I'd stacked my plate with a variety of greens, reds, oranges and the most delicious imitation chocolate cake I've ever had, I sat down and talked to Maureen Powers. She used to work for the US Department of Agriculture in Oregon and taught feng shui and permaculture to diplomats. She also worked in environmental design and eco-friendly housing. But it was at the Columbia River wildlife sanctuary in Oregon that she discovered the benefits of raw organic food. "Food is a drug, a healing drug," she says. Eventually she moved up to Vancouver and opened the Raw Café. Although the food isn't entirely raw, she admits, it is all vegetarian and includes a large selection of dishes, including samosas. Her clients include "healthy yoga people, and really sick people who have no choice but to cleanse."

"Food is a chemical that changes them," she insists.

## THE HEALTHY ROAD

Impressed by the raw foodists I'd met, I wondered why the diet isn't more widespread. During the drive home from the Raw Café, I asked Iverson what he hopes for the future of the raw-food movement.

Though he admitted that at the moment raw food is limited to a fraction of the population, he expressed confidence that the diet will have its day in the sun.

"Right now, it's just a fad; it's not part of our culture yet," he told me. "Once it becomes mainstream, it will become part of the culture, and at that point we can really reach out to everyone on the planet."

Iverson envisions in raw food the establishment of a healthy alternative to the current mainstream diet of french fries and burgers.

"I would like to see a lot of models created on how to open up raw-food restaurants and delis and take-away places and cafés," he said. "Then we can have a sort of a McDonald's of live food. Not quite like McDonald's, but like a fast live food in a franchisable situation." Iverson also encourages entrepreneurs interested in nutrition to start developing and marketing raw products to get the word out and make raw food more widespread and accessible.

Raw food is not only a diet but a lifestyle. Speaking to individuals from throughout the Vancouver raw-food community, I realized that this underground community might not be underground for long. And after my meal at the Raw Café of chipotle salad and corn chips, I felt open to the possibility.

## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### The Skin of Our Teeth

ABBEDAM  
Directed by Becky Low  
Trimm Centre for the Arts  
Second Playing Space  
16–20 November at 8pm

ABBEDAM is a student-run production company under the guidance of the U of A department of drama, providing theatre-savvy students with the experience they need to organize, lead, and run a theatre company.

Their most recent production, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, is a play representing the ongoing struggles of society in a humorous, retrospective, and highly satirical way.

While most theatrical productions draw a line at the foot of the stage, this one includes direct actor-audience interactions as well as minimalist set design that doesn't distract from the play's content.

Comical and lighthearted, this production provides welcome release to those of us mentally constrained by looming exams.



**GWAR**  
with Dying Fetus  
Red's  
Monday, 22 November

The legend of GWAR began a few millennia ago when pimp, pornographer, and Capitalist Records executive Slezzy P Martin found a bunch of aliens entombed in Antarctica and decided to cut them a record deal.

Since then, GWAR has been running diabolical chaos down on the measly mudball they call Earth, constantly seeking weak, impressionable humans to join their quest to enslave the masses and destroy society.

GWAR makes the audience at Red's hellish coven this week, and calls upon all you lowly zillion scum of outcast pre-pubescent to attend. The show will include low acts of masturbating onto the audience, bestiality, and a human meat-grinder. Zounds!

### Warren Miller's Impact

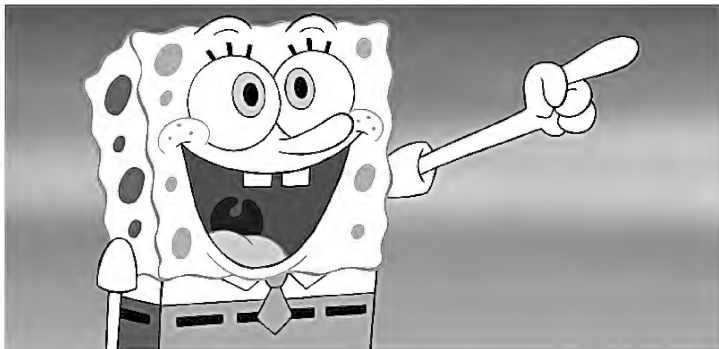
Directed by Warren Miller  
Winspear Centre  
Friday, 19 November at 6:30pm  
and 9pm

Winter is crapping out on us unfortunate Albertans, but *Impact* is here to give comforting solace.

The 55th Warren Miller movie (Miller is famous for his films on sports such as skiing, sailing and windsurfing), *Impact* is a high energy, action-packed winter sports film that showcases top athletes and local heroes as they travel to exotic locations around the globe in search of the deepest powder and perfect ride.

Tickets to this event are limited, as the show appears in Edmonton only once before it heads off to tour 3000 other cities (seriously, 3000 cities) across North America.

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Edmonton's Paris Hilton



## SpongeBob SquarePants fits all ages

### The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie

Directed by Sherm Cohen, Stephen Hillenburg  
and Mark Osborne  
Starring Tom Kenny, Bill Fagerbakke, Alec Baldwin,  
Scarlett Johansson, Jeffrey Tambor  
and David Hasselhoff  
Opens Friday, 19 November

KRISTINE OWBAR  
Managing Editor

Nowadays, cartoons seem to be either sophisticated satires for adults (like *The Simpsons* or *Family Guy*) or banal tripe for children (like almost anything on Nickelodeon or YTV).

For a cartoon to bridge this gap and appeal equally to adults and children is a very difficult thing to do, but the creators of *SpongeBob SquarePants* did just that with their show's lovable characters, brilliant dialogue, and hilarious non-sequiturs. Far from following the trend of taking good TV shows and making them into terrible live-action movies (*The Flintstones*, anyone?), *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie* takes the absurdity of the show and embraces it, resulting in one of the best children's films you'll ever see.

The plot is simple enough: the profit-seeking Mr Krabs is opening a second Krusty Krab, the restaurant where his famous Krabby Patties are made. The evil and embittered Plankton, owner of the unsuccessful eatery The Chum Bucket, is determined that Mr Krabs will not succeed.

Bent on stealing the recipe for the Krabby Patty, Plankton pulls out his "Plan Z," which involves framing Mr Krabs for the theft of King Neptune's crown. Neptune, being overly sensitive about his bald spot, falls for the plot and decides to kill Mr Krabs if he doesn't bring his crown in six days.

Adventures ensue, including a run-in with a tough, motorcycle-riding hitman named Dennis (Alec Baldwin); a meeting with a fish whose tongue can morph into various shapes, including an incredibly creepy cat; a *deus ex machina* in the form of a live-action David Hasselhoff; and Patrick's first crush, Neptune's daughter Mindy (Scarlett Johansson).

*The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie* is a classic coming-of-age film, albeit one involving a square sea sponge and a starfish, with a plot simple and fast-moving enough that it appeals to kids.

However, it's the little touches that make

*SpongeBob* so likeable to the 20-something viewers. The combination of animation with live-action is absolutely brilliant, and the highlight of the film is definitely watching David Hasselhoff talk to a cartoon sponge and starfish who ride through the ocean on his sun-damaged back.

The writing manages to be cute, hilarious, and touching at the same time—as exemplified by the all-night ice-cream bender *SpongeBob* and Patrick go on that results in a disheveled and hung-over *SpongeBob* telling off his boss the next morning. And if *SpongeBob* and Patrick's plight doesn't bring tears to your eyes at least once by the end of the film, then you're a callous jerk. The movie also contains what is quite possibly the greatest insult of all time, when someone calls *SpongeBob* a "Knucklehead McSpazzatron" after he fails to get a promotion.

*The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie* will appeal to anyone, young or old, albeit for very different reasons. So grab your kids, your girlfriend, your dad, or your grandparents (well, maybe not your grandparents) and prepare to laugh, cry, and have a good, long discussion afterward about how David Hasselhoff should really get checked for skin cancer. Confused? Go watch the movie or you're a Knucklehead McSpazzatron.

## Label couldn't squash SNFU's DIY ethic

### SNFU

with Misery Signals, Married to Music and  
Too Pure to Die  
Starlite Room  
Saturday, 20 November at 8pm

ASIA SZKUDLAREK  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In 1982, when CDs had just been invented and the world was full of tie-dyed parachute pants, twin brothers Marc and Brent Belke spent hours in Edmonton skate parks. Joining forces with skate-enthusiast Mr Chi Pig resulted in a high-energy friendship that soon after formed SNFU.

Multiple garage jam sessions and hall gigs later, the band released their 1984 debut album *And No One Wanted to Play*.

More than a decade later, SNFU are still on top of punk rock's pedestal with their new album *In The Meantime and In Between Time*, their first full-length album in seven years. But SNFU founder Marc Belke still reminisces on days gone by.

"When we started out there was no real chance for a punk-rock band to go on tour and go across Canada. You had to search out venues and shows; there wasn't an established circuit with places to play," he says.

But they managed. SNFU's travels have taken them all over, including Europe, where Belke says fans are most hardcore. "I think there's



more of an acceptance of art and culture there," he says, explaining that many long-dead western trends, like metal, are still alive and kicking across the Atlantic.

The band is currently plane-hopping to spread the word about their new album. What sets it apart, however, is that it was fully financed and put out on Rake Records, their own label. The band's previous label, Epitaph, limited the band's budget to the point where their ability to continue making music was dampened, says Belke.

According to Belke, the blood and sweat put

into the record's production was well worth it. "The first sessions for the record were done about four years ago when a lot of stuff was happening. I think the band was disintegrating a bit, so we got into the studio and kept redoing things until it got to the point where we thought we had a suitable release," he says.

"It had been quite a while since our last record, so we wanted to release something that we actually put an effort into. I really think our independence is a move we should have made a long time ago."





## Melting pot not required when making Deep Fried Curried Perogies

### Deep Fried Curried Perogies

Directed by Michelle Todd  
Starring Michelle Todd  
TransAlta Arts Bams (10330 84 Ave)  
18-28 November at 8pm

SCOTT C. BOURGOIS  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Everyone has unusual stories they can relate about growing up, but for local playwright/actor/director Michelle Todd, those strange tales of youth inspired a one-woman play, *Deep Fried Curried Perogies*. Though the play deals with Todd's unique background of growing up in Edmonton with a Jamaican father and a Filipino mother, audiences will find plenty to identify with as the play explores the commonality we all share and the question of what it means to be a Canadian.

"You know what? We're all pretty much the same," says Todd. And, she explains, mothers are one of those things that everyone has in common. "Everyone could relate to stuff like mothers wanting to feed you, regardless of ethnicity; 'you're too skinny,

you're too fat.'"

Mind you, while everyone might relate to a mother wanting to plump up her brood, what Ma fattens the kiddies will be something a bit more particular, as Todd found out.

"I didn't know that people didn't eat rice every day," recalls Todd with a laugh. "We were rice people. My mom probably knows thirty billion ways to make it: brown rice, fried rice, steamed rice, you name it. She should write a recipe book."

Interestingly, the idea of culturally specific dishes inspired the play. Todd decided to write the play after she discovered she was pregnant. "It dawned on me: my boyfriend's Ukrainian and British, and I'm Jamaican and Filipino. We're going to raise a Canadian... What the hell does that mean?"

For Todd, this also brought up other unusual questions. "What about our ethnicity? What are we going to do? What if [the baby] has to bring food from his culture, what am I doing to do? What am I going to make? Deep fried curried perogies?"

After writing the show—the first

full-length show that she has written on her own—Todd went on to perform it at the 2004 Edmonton Fringe Festival. The feedback she got was very positive.

"A lot of people said how they wish their son or daughter could have seen it, because they have children of mixed ethnicity. Some very touching stories of the hardships you deal with when you're half and half, and you're shunned," she says.

The play isn't just about Todd's background, growing up here in Edmonton, it's also a look into the heart of what being Canadian is all about.

"I think Canada is great in the terms of—and I really do—how you can keep your cultural identity and not fall into accepting the mass... We're really more of a mosaic than a melting pot. Nobody's really expected to melt in; you can see each tile clearly."

"It totally enriches us," she continues. "Being able to relate to, and identify with, other cultures. It makes us more understanding, which makes us less prone to war, and misunderstanding, and lack of communication."

## Engineering a character-driven comedy

### Marion Bridge

Theatre Network  
Directed by Bradley Moss  
Starring Coralie Cairns, Caroline Livingstone and Davina Stewart  
Rox Theatre  
Playing until 5 December

JAMES STORRIE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Theatre Network's presentation of the Governor General's Award-winning *Marion Bridge* may be at times as dark and sarcastic as its film adaptation (2002, starring Molly Parker). But the two are not, according to director Bradley Moss, anything alike.

"Simply put, the film is a tragedy, the play is a comedy," Moss explains.

This is no surprise to those familiar with playwright Daniel McVior's work. McVior's frequently visited Edmonton with a variety of one-man shows including *Monster* and *The House*, and his comedic credentials are solid. He was even involved in the CBC cult hit *Twitch City*, a show steeped in sarcastic wit.

Moss figures comedy's in McVior's blood.

"I think it's synonymous with east-coasters. They can't help but crack a joke. Even though *Marion Bridge* is a kinder, gentler work for him, he really can't help himself but take these zingers. He can't help but make fun of himself—and of others."

*Marion Bridge*'s story centres on three sisters as they take care of their ailing mother.

The eldest sister, Agnes McKean, is an alcoholic actress from Toronto. Middle sister Theresa has become a rural nun, and the youngest, Louise, has turned into a television-addicted recluse.

As Moss says, "It's about character



PHOTO COURTESY IAN JACKSON/EPIC PHOTOGRAPHY

more than plot. The enjoyment comes from getting to see who these characters really are—watching the nurse get uptight about swearing, or the actress go overboard with her hangerover."

The show is full of familiar faces for Edmonton theatre-goers. Coralie Cairns of *Shadow Theatre* plays Agnes, while Louise is played by Caroline Livingstone (Livingstone directs voice for local computer game company BioWare while she's not working onstage). Davina Stewart—known for her regular roles in *Die Nasty* and *Oh Susanna*—plays Louise. Having previously acted with Teatro La Quindicina, Stewart makes her Theatre Network debut in *Marion Bridge*.

While *Marion Bridge* is dotted with sharp, sometimes cynical humour, its themes run deeper than simple black comedy, explains Moss. Memory, and our interpretations of it, is of key importance to the play.

"Each of these sisters has a different recollection of this event at Marion Bridge, though it's not a big event at all in the play. Agnes remembers Mom making *Marion Bridge* out to be this paradise, 14 miles down the road, but

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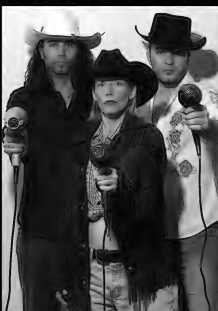
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# Santilli's ready to boogie down

Ivana Santilli

with guests  
Starlite Room  
Friday, 19 November at 9pm

YING-YING LEE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

People have been wondering what Ivana Santilli's been up to. The former Bass is Base member has just released a new record, *Corduroy Boogie*, but it's been nearly five years since the release of *Brown*, her critically acclaimed debut solo album.

*Brown* became one of the best-selling independent releases of 1999 and earned Santilli two Juno nominations. Since then, she spent two years touring, and dealt with a string of sour business deals—experiences that prove Santilli has endured a steep learning curve.

"The first album was just discovering who I was," Santilli says over the phone from Toronto. "Releasing *Corduroy Boogie* is more so what I learned through *Brown*. All of the musical stuff like touring it live, seeing what people want to hear when they're watching you—they do want more upbeat stuff and so I gave more of that."

Often described as sultry, mellow, and smooth, Santilli strives to reveal her energetic, fun-loving side not only in her recordings, but also in the live shows that she performs all over the world. Earlier this year, a tour of Japan left quite the impression on the chanteuse.

"Japan was such an adventure. It was the first time I ever felt like a complete foreigner. I'm just really impressed with the culture," she says.

"Honestly, I think we have a lot to learn from the Japanese. Musically, they really know what's going on. They really know about art; they're really educated, cultured people. And besides that, they weren't loud. They were very attentive."

It wasn't too difficult for Santilli to shift her Japanese crowds' gears.

"I encouraged them to dance. I think that the women aren't encouraged to be as expressive, but they let loose midway through the show when they could see that I was letting go of all my moves."

These days, back touring Canada, Santilli's shows are occasionally a



family affair. Both her father and sister, Ivan and Claudia, make an appearance on *Corduroy Boogie* on the track "Torna A Casa" and have also appeared on stage with her in Montréal and Toronto.

Including her family seemed natural for Santilli. It also, however, proved to be quite a challenge.

"Working in the studio was both wonderful and frustrating because you're working with family," she laughs. "The same things that happen in the house—you argue or you fuss about—that all happened in the studio."

The results of the collaboration have proven to be worth all the commotion, as audiences have embraced the family endeavour.

"The response is unbelievable. People come up to me and tell me

they're tearing," she says.

Expect no tears from Santilli, though, when she shares the music from her new album with her audience at the Starlite Room on 19 November. She's hoping that the Edmonton audience will bring the same warm welcome she received during the Jazz City Festival earlier this year.

"Edmonton really impressed me. The audience was so beautiful. They were so receptive," she says.

Not only will she be sharing her new music this time around, but a new attitude may also shine through. After her experiences over the past five years—both good and bad—there is more to this soulful voice.

"I'm more of a survivor. There's more guts and there's more fire." Hopefully audiences are ready for the heat.

## Plainsay plain crazy for playin' live

Prolific local band toys with recording live album in the new year

**Plainsay**  
with Headcrin and Rorschach  
Powerplant  
Saturday, 20 November at 8pm

BRETT LAMBERT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The word on Edmonton streets is that Plainsay is a band you've just got to catch live. Plainsay caught wind of this, and now the foursome is compelled to make arrangements to record their material live—likely within the next year.

"We want to have some recorded material that reflects the energy in our live show," explains guitarist Jonathan Halton. "We're happy with [our EP] *Cartography*, but we also heard that there's something in our live performance that's not captured on the album. It makes people notice us more, so there's a buzz about it."

"Comparing our live show to our album, *Cartography* is more introverted, personal and well thought out,"

explains drummer Tyrr Armstrong. "Whereas, our live show, it's more extroverted, improvised and we're pouring our hearts out. It's catharsis."

For those who've missed out on hearing them live, Plainsay are a melodic rock band drawing influences from the likes of Coldplay, Radiohead, Incubus and the late great Jeff Buckley.

"I've been getting random people coming up to us with Jeff Buckley comparisons, which is very exciting for us, because what better person to get compared to than Jeff Buckley?" says Armstrong.

"[Our lead singer's] vocals are very Buckley-esque," adds Halton. "He's soul and rock put together."

For their upcoming Powerplant gig, fans of this fledgling band can expect to hear some brand-new material.

"These new songs are just dynamic," beams Armstrong.

"It's good progressive indie rock," chimes in Halton. "In some areas we're heading in a harder direction, putting

in a lot more energy to match up with the live show. A lot of what we write, it's on the big issues—not necessarily political, more based on humanity. Of our new songs, we approach areas of mental health. We had a close friend who died recently. He was schizophrenic and we wrote about his own personal battle. Not that we're a sob story and that the world sucks. We're very positive people, but we just try to make our lyrics mean something to us."

"A follow-up should be soon; sometime in 2005 is the short answer," says Halton. "We're constantly changing and we want to reflect that. We're very happy with *Cartography*, but we're on to something else now and we'd like to show our evolution and the different sides of the band. Our goal is to keep it at and to get better as songwriters and musicians."

# The best emo polka-core band, ever

## The Sadies

with *The Leather Uppers*  
and *The Maykings*  
SideTrack Café  
Friday, 19 November at 8pm

BRETT LAMBERT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

You can call The Sadies country, you can call them rock, you call them surf, heck, you can call them emo polka-core if you want. It doesn't matter what you call them: The Sadies only hope that you love what they do.

"Obviously we try and do different things, different sounds," says guitarist and vocalist Dallas Good while en route to Regina. "It's really for the listener to decide. I'm comfortable with all titles: jazz, rock, country, blues—I don't give a shit anymore. All I want is a larger audience, so whatever music you're into, we do it better than anyone else."

The Toronto foursome has been diligently honing their craft over the last six years. Their fifth and latest album, *Favourite Colours*, was released over the summer.

"Since this is our fifth record, we've had a lot of time to exorcise our demons and make a lot of music," Good explains. "We've had a lot of material to reflect on and just did it again this time, only better. We've shifted more towards lyric writing and a bit less of an emphasis on instrumental music, which was a strong



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA SCHENK

point on our previous albums."

"The lyrics on this record were definitely a reaction to the state of pop music today. If you close-caption *MuchMusic*, it's appalling what you can come up with. Rhythmic love with love, for example. It wasn't so much reactionary; it's that it gave me the confidence that I needed to write lyrics."

Recorded over a span of one and a half years in three different locations (Tucson, Arizona, Toronto and Blue Rodeo's rural Canadian farm), many of the band's best musical friends show up on the album, including Robyn Hitchcock, Blue Rodeo's Greg Keeler and Calexico's Joe Burns, among others.

"The collaborations are a product of our friends and being on the road and opportunities that arise from working constantly," says Good. "For Robyn Hitchcock, we wrote 'Why Would Anybody Live Here?' and we hoped that if he was willing he'd be able to

make something more out of it, and he did. None of us could play cello, but [Calexico's] Joe Burns could, so he was kind enough to play with us. We only work with people that we respect and feel they can offer something to the project, and vice versa."

And The Sadies have several projects on the go. When they aren't performing as a group they engage in plenty of other musical endeavours, which include scoring a documentary for filmmaker Ron Mann, a musical side project called *The Unintended*, and a collaboration backing Neko Case.

"This is a full-time career for us and wasting time doesn't exactly make for good music," says Good.

"It definitely gives us an opportunity to achieve other styles and satisfy the urge to play different kinds of music. If something isn't appropriate for the new Sadies record, maybe it's appropriate for a soundtrack or it can be shelved and reinvented a few years later."



## Hot Water Music

*The New What Next*  
Epiphany  
www.hotwatermusic.com

YING-YING LEE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Many loyal fans of Gainesville, Florida's Hot Water Music will agree that part of the experience of purchasing a new HWM album is the delight of admiring the cover art.

As the simplistic cover of HWM's latest release, *The New What Next*, is notably different than what fans of the band may expect, so too is the emergent melodic undertone of the album.

*The New What Next* reveals a

collection of intricately constructed songs, each with its own identity that is unique from the feel of the band's widely revered 2002 release, *Caution*.

The range in sound on *The New What Next*, from the anthem-like "Under Everything" to the catchiness of "Ink and Lead," exemplifies why HWM continues to defy simple punk-rock categorization.

If you're a long-time fan of HWM, do not be misled by the cover and do not be turned off by the melodic undertone. The same brilliantly distinguished band created it.

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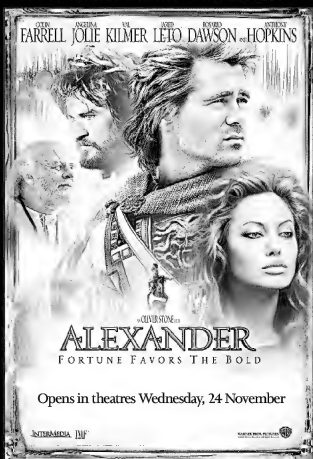
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## Freeburn's hooked on classics

### Freeburn

with *Supersized and Exit 303*  
Red's  
Friday, 19 November at 8pm

MICHAEL LAROCQUE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Sometimes it seems like the Edmonton music scene is over-saturated with local punk, hardcore, or experimental bands. But sometimes, people just want a bold-voiced, guitar-heavy, honest-to-goodness rock n' roll band. For those people, local quintet Freeburn might be the cure. Finding what they describe as "friction-free" rock n' roll, the band is reaching into rock history in every aspect of their music.

"We played our first gig in February 2000 at our local bar in Stony Plain," recalls rhythm guitarist Jeff Bianchini. "For our first gig we had about six songs, but the more songs we wrote the better gigs we got. We wrote some more songs, did a couple battle of the bands, and basically worked up to this CD."

Their debut album, *Coming Back Again*, is the product of their four years together. Friends since elementary school, the boys of Freeburn have moved from playing local shows in Stony Plain to hitting some of Edmonton's premiere locations for live music, having played the Sidetrack Café multiple times this year and even performing at the U of A's WOW festivities.

The key to their growing success seems to be their particular brand of music: a blend of classic and modern rock that reaches out to an entire spectrum of fans.

"We just find that too much of the



same thing is happening in modern rock today," says Bianchini. "There seems to be a formula that has been set by bands, and nobody seems to be doing anything different than what was done one or two years ago. Everybody models themselves after what they listen to, so we find sometimes it's easier to go back to records 20 or 30 years old and get inspired that way."

Offering a contemporary sound firmly based in the teachings of classic rock, guitarist Chris Church is indebted to the classic bands that shaped Freeburn's sound. "The groups that we grew up on, like Guns n' Roses, Aerosmith, and Led Zeppelin are influential to us—bands where you could still name the lead guitar players."

When it came to recording their album, Freeburn didn't ignore their classic rock roots. Forgoing modern technology and digital recording, the band created an album that would make both rock purists and perfectionists proud.

"If you listen to a lot of older records, you hear imperfections," says Bianchini. "That wrong note on

a solo that they left in because that's how they played it. Using computers, you can take a perfect snare hit on the drums and repeat it on the whole track, but musicians aren't that perfect. When we decided to record with older equipment it made it way harder, but we wanted it to sound like real musicians playing and not a computer perfecting everyone's performance."

Church adds, "You have to be able to play what you want to produce."

This Friday, Freeburn's releasing their new CD with a live show at Red's. And the band feels it's riding a wave of success. They've played a steady stream of shows over the past year, and have an upcoming tour of Switzerland booked for early 2005.

And, if anything, Freeburn feels they're proving that ditching the stale conventions of mass-produced music and throwing it back to the classic days of rock n' roll will win over the goodwill of this town's premiere purveyors of live music.

"We never thought we'd ever get into the Sidetrack to play a Friday night there. So we've got no beef with the Edmonton scene," says Bianchini. "Except maybe the pay."

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# SPORTS

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## Winless hoops Pandas look to reverse their fortunes

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Writer

The winless Pandas basketball squad (0-4) hope to turn over a new leaf on their season by not turning the ball over in a pair of games against the Manitoba Bisons and Winnipeg Wesmen, this weekend in the Main Gym.

"We know that we're young and that we're making mistakes that we have to correct," said Pandas head coach Trix Baker. "We have way too many turnovers right now in our game and we're not shooting the ball very well, so we have to shoot the ball better and take care of the ball."

The rookie-laden Pandas roster is in tough in Canada West, which features seven of the top ten teams in the country—including all of the top six—but Baker insisted her squad has the talent to compete in the conference.

"I think we can run with anybody; it's just a matter of keeping possession of the ball while we're running," said Baker. "For sure we can run, but we have to work on finishing and taking care of the ball."

The banged-up Bisons, ranked eighth in CIS, are coming off a pair of losses to the second-ranked Wesmen last week, and Baker is optimistic about the Pandas' chances in their 6:30pm Friday matchup.

"I think Manitoba is the weakest of the teams we've played thus far," she said. "They're sporadic like us... so they need lots of shots to get a lot of points."

But Baker admitted that the Bisons, who had 165 shots in their two games against the Wesmen, could cause fits for the turnover-prone Pandas.

"They are very small, very athletic," said Baker. "They full-court press the whole time. If they press us a lot, it could cause a bit of trouble."

The Wesmen, who will have a distinct size advantage, will provide an entirely different challenge for the young Pandas when they meet at noon Sunday.

"I think we're going to have to find a combination of both [outside shooting and penetration]," said Baker. "We've had some success in



FILE PHOTO: BISS TSE

**DON'T TURN IT OVER** Carly McLennan (8) and the Pandas will try to end their winless streak this weekend against Manitoba and Winnipeg.

the past with some penetration. Teams that are big and play zone tend to stand up a bit, so there are seams you can get into, and we've just got to make sure we know where those seams are."

Offense has been a major concern for the Pandas, who have averaged only 51 points per game, a number they'll have to drastically increase.

"Defensively we've held teams to few enough points that if we were getting points we'd beat them," said Baker. "We held Calgary to 54 points last Friday, but we only scored 48. We'll just have to keep plugging away and hope that these young kids are getting some experience and getting better every game."

Despite having home-court advantage, Alberta comes into both games as underdogs, a position the team is quite familiar with in Canada West.

"We're pretty much an underdog in every game we play," said Baker. "It's David and Goliath every weekend, and we have to start knocking off some giants."

## Golden Bears hoops squad returns home hungry for wins

Team is focused on Bisons, Wesmen after humbling trip to US

CHRIS O'LEARY  
Sports Writer

Back-to-back blowout losses are never a good thing. But when they come at the talented hands of teams like the Arizona Sun Devils and the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks, a team like the Golden Bears can take a lot of lessons from the loss. At least that's what head coach Don Horwood said after last weekend's trip to Arizona to meet the two NCAA Division I teams.

"The main thing for going down there was giving the guys the experience of playing against Division I-calibre athletes," Horwood said.

"[The Arizona teams were] quicker, bigger, stronger, more skilled. They worked harder than us and their intensity level was higher. We go on this trip to expose our guys to that higher intensity level and hopefully inspire some of them to work a little harder, and I think that it's worked."

The Bears (1-1) will have an opportunity to put their intensity to the test this weekend when the Manitoba Bisons (2-0) and Winnipeg Wesmen (1-1) visit tomorrow and Sunday, respectively. All three teams are unranked nationally, so this weekend's matchups may provide a good opportunity for the Bears to add a couple of wins to their record.

"Manitoba's one of the teams we have to beat to get where we want to go," Horwood said, noting that the Bisons have not been a strong team in the past. "This year they seem to be better than they have in the past. They've struggled in some games

and they've played well in some games. Basically, that's where we are."

The Wesmen, who will also be playing the seventh-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies (3-1) in Saskatoon tomorrow, suffered a pair of losses at the hands of Manitoba last weekend, and will likely be coming into Edmonton on a losing streak.

"They're not quite as good as Manitoba," Horwood said. "They have one really good guard [second-year player Brian Nasajpour] who scores in the 18-point range. They don't have a lot to go with him, and certainly this is one of the weaker teams they've had in a number of years."

With two unranked squads coming to play a Bears team that's historically been tough at home, the Bisons and the Wesmen face a tough task this weekend. But Horwood said that if his team isn't careful, the visitors could easily steal wins from the Bears, who are currently without injured post Phil Sadol and forward Scott Gordon.

"For us right now, we have to be ready to play this weekend. I think our guys know that; they know how important these two games are," the coach said. "You can't take anyone lightly in our conference. Anyone can beat you and you've got to be ready to play every night. These are important games for us; it allows us to stay in the hunt with two of our better post players sitting on the bench. We'll be ready for it."

The Bears will face Manitoba tomorrow at 8pm, before tipping off with the Wesmen at 2pm Sunday. Both games will be played in the Main Gym.



FILE PHOTO: KATIE TWIDDE

**THEY HAVE A SHOT** After returning from Arizona, the Bears are expecting more chances like this.

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FIGHTING BACK The Golden Bears will seek to avenge their only loss of the season when they host the Bisons. FILE PHOTO: JAMES LEUNG

## Hockey Bears on hot streak

MICHAEL KLARAY  
Sports Writer

Coming off an impressive sweep of the second-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies last weekend in Saskatoon, the top-ranked Golden Bears hockey team will try to bring that momentum home this weekend when they face the sixth-ranked Manitoba Bisons.

While both the Bears (9-1) and the Huskies (7-2-1) are known for their powerful offenses, the Bears were able to earn a pair of shutouts in Saskatoon, which Bears' defenseman Perry Johnson suggested didn't come as a surprise to him.

"We take a lot of pride in our defensive play," said Johnson. "It's always a focus for us, though I don't think we're necessarily a defensive team."

Alberta's only loss of the Canada West season came against the Bisons in Winnipeg on opening weekend, and the Bears will be looking for a better result this upcoming weekend.

They'll likely be in tough once again against the Bisons (7-1-2), who sit only two points behind the Bears after ten games. But while revenge may be in the back of Alberta's minds, Johnson said that Manitoba's impressive record so far this season has no bearing on how his team will approach this weekend's games.

"We are preparing for this weekend like any other weekend, and we are looking forward to playing those guys again," he admitted. "I don't know if we ever look at the other team and base our game plan on that. I think we feel that if we play the way we can at home, then things will take care of themselves."

Though they've settled comfortably into the country's top ranking now, the Bears, who were undefeated up until the national championships last year, struggled earlier this season. They played to a 4-2-1 pre-season record, including a shocking loss to the Grant MacEwan Griffins of the

Alberta Colleges Athletics Association, which is a level below CIS. But with their 9-1 conference record, it looks now like those early woes are long behind the Bears.

"I think things are looking pretty good for us," said Johnson. "Guys are playing pretty well, and we're starting to come around now."

The meetings between Alberta and Manitoba earlier this year were extremely physical contests, and Johnson said he expects more of the same this weekend from the Bisons, who are known as a physical team and who've taken 205 penalty minutes so far this year, compared to 143 for the Bears.

"That's the sort of brand of hockey they play," he said. "I try to play clutch and grab and slow us down, but I don't think that will be a problem for us."

The puck will drop at 7:30pm on both Friday and Saturday at Clare Drake Arena.

## Pre-game anthem is a pointless relic

PAUL  
OWEN

Sports  
Commentary



Pandas basketball forward Trish Ariss has one half of a singing voice. She sounds like an angel, or a loon, or some other sort of metaphorically melodious creature. I know this not because I've heard her singing in the shower or to the radio in her car like regular, untalented people, but because she kicked off the Golden Bear Invitational basketball tournament with her rendition of "O Canada." She did a great job—certainly much better than anything I've ever croaked out—but I'd rather not have heard her. Playing the national anthem before sporting events is an outdated practice, and we need to stop doing it.

Back in the early days of World War II, Canadian hockey teams started playing the national anthem as a show of patriotism and respect for those fighting overseas, many of whom might otherwise have been playing in those games. As the US got involved in the war, the habit spread to their hockey games, then to baseball. Before long, every major and minor sporting event was belting out the anthem before games, while fans were filled with pride to know that their on-the-court heroes were off being heroes

in Europe. The anthem was a sign of respect for all those who left and the all too many who never came back.

However, the tradition has now lost its focus. In Canada's case, the anthem isn't even the same as that song to honour those who fought back when this tradition was started. Furthermore, the French roots of our anthem are often ignored as it's sung in English only by those who never bothered to learn the bilingual version. Now, the anthem serves only to provide an additional celebrity spectacle for major sporting events, such as Keshia Chanté being named to sing it at this year's Grey Cup in Ottawa, or Bryan Adams' butchering of it at the NHL All-Star Game in Vancouver.

And the United States, currently involved in two wars and notorious for its ultra-patriotism, has implemented the signing of "God Bless America" as their sign of respect, making "The Star Spangled Banner" redundant and an example of outdated tradition in the sporting world.

Sports leagues, it seems, are merely following this tradition blindly, showing no real reasoning for the anthem. If it's honouring those who fought in war, then the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner" when American teams come to town has no purpose, unless they are also honouring their soldiers. If that's the case, then why is the playing of the American anthem reserved only for when playing American teams? The dead don't only deserve respect when the hockey

team they grew up cheering for comes to lay a whooping on the Oilers.

If, on the other hand, the anthem's purpose has evolved to represent the teams playing, the team fight song would be more appropriate. And if a school or team doesn't have a fight song, they should get one—it's really not that hard to come up with something like, "We're marching right, right, right on Eskimos."

If the anthem is instead being used to represent the players, then Bears basketball guard Tyler Coston has reason to gripe about more than just referees: the Lynden, Washington native should be asking them to play his anthem as well, just as English-born centre Richard Bates should be demanding "God Save the Queen." Neither of them is accurately represented by the neglect shown to their respective countries of birth.

The real reasons behind the anthem no longer apply, and now it is nothing more than another over-commercialized aspect of sports. Many people in the stands simply gripe that they have to get out of their seats, and it's difficult to find anyone singing patriotically—and those who are generally sound like they have been court-stomped in the vocal chords one too many times. It's become not only a meaningless gesture, but sometimes a show of disrespect, as many fans treat it with disdain.

Sorry Trish, but you're going to have to find another place to sound angelic, because the anthem has got to go.

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## THE STATS PAGE

## Men's Hockey

## Canada West standings

## Mountain Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Alberta	10	9	1	0	45	15	18
Calgary	10	4	4	2	34	24	10
UBC	10	0	7	3	25	47	3
Lethbridge	10	1	9	0	25	68	2

## Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Manitoba	10	7	1	2	44	20	16
Saskatchewan	10	7	2	1	42	27	15
Regina	12	3	7	2	32	36	8

## Schedule

Friday	Saturday
UBC @ Saskatchewan 6pm	UBC @ Saskatchewan 6pm
Leth @ Regina 6:30pm	Leth @ Regina 6:30pm
Man @ Alberta 7:30pm	Man @ Alberta 7:30pm

## Women's Volleyball

## Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	PTS
Calgary	6	6	0	18	7	12
UBC	5	5	0	15	2	10
Alberta	6	4	2	16	8	8
Regina	5	4	1	12	6	8
Winnipeg	6	4	2	14	12	8
Manitoba	6	2	4	10	12	4
TWU	6	2	4	10	15	4
Saskatchewan	6	0	6	1	18	0
Simon Fraser	8	0	8	8	24	0

## Schedule

Friday	Saturday
Alberta @ UBC 7pm	Alberta @ UBC 7pm

## Women's Basketball

## Canada West standings

## Central Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Saskatchewan	4	3	1	302	248	6
Calgary	4	3	1	247	226	6
Lethbridge	4	1	3	268	313	2
Alberta	4	0	4	204	275	0

## Schedule

Friday	Saturday
Winnipeg @ Sask 5:15pm	Leth @ Calgary 6pm
TWU @ Regina 5:15pm	Man @ Alberta 6:30pm
SFU @ Brandon 5:15pm	UBC @ Victoria 7:30pm
Saturday	Sunday
Leth @ Calgary 6pm	Manitoba @ Sask 11am
UBC @ Victoria 7:30pm	TWU @ Brandon 11am
	SFU @ Regina 12pm
	Winnipeg @ Alberta 12pm

## Men's Basketball

## Canada West standings

## Central Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Saskatchewan	4	3	1	313	281	6
Alberta	2	1	1	130	139	2
Calgary	2	0	2	116	143	0
Lethbridge	4	0	4	283	330	0

## Schedule

Friday	Saturday
Winnipeg @ Sask 7pm	Leth @ Calgary 8pm
TWU @ Regina 7pm	Man @ Alberta 8:15pm
SFU @ Brandon 7:15pm	UBC @ Victoria 9:15pm
Saturday	Sunday
Leth @ Calgary 8pm	Manitoba @ Sask 1pm
UBC @ Victoria 9:15pm	TWU @ Brandon 1pm
	SFU @ Regina 2pm
	Winnipeg @ Alberta 2pm

## SPORTS SHORTS

## Men's Volleyball

The top-ranked Golden Bears (5-1) will head to Langley, BC this weekend for a pair of matches against the second-ranked Trinity Western Spartans (3-1). They'll face each other at 9pm tomorrow and Saturday.

The latest CIS top-ten list was released on Tuesday, and there were no changes from the previous week's list. The Bears and Spartans lead a strong Canada West contingent: teams from the conference occupy the top seven spots.

## Women's Volleyball

The women's top-ten list was also released on Tuesday, but it saw numerous changes. Most notably, the Pandas (4-2) dropped from the top ranking to a tie for third with the Sherbrooke Vert et Or after their two losses to the Calgary Dinos (6-0) last weekend. The Dinos moved up one to take over the top ranking.

This weekend, the Pandas will once again face the number-two team in the country, now the UBC Thunderbirds (5-0). They'll play two matches in Vancouver tomorrow and Saturday at 7pm. The Dinos, meanwhile, will play at the same times against Trinity Western.

## Women's Hockey

The Pandas (8-0) have the weekend off from Canada West competition, but tomorrow they'll play an exhibition game against the Edmonton Chimos of the Western Women's Hockey League. This is the last of six scheduled games between the two teams this year. The Pandas have won the last three meetings, after a tie and a loss in the first two games of the year. Faceoff for tomorrow's match is at 7:45pm at the

Akinsdale Arena in St. Albert.

The only Canada West games of the week will see the last-place UBC Thunderbirds (1-3-2) hosting the fourth-place Manitoba Bisons (2-3-1).

## Women's Wrestling

The Pandas wrestling squad will head to Lakehead University in Thunder Bay this weekend for the Lakehead Women's Duals. The Pandas are currently ranked sixth in the country, while the Lakehead Thunderwolves are ranked ninth.

## Football

This year's Vanier Cup finalists will be determined this weekend. First up, the defending champion Laval Rouge et Or (9-1 overall) will take the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks (10-0) in the Uteck Bowl, live on TSN at 10am Saturday. This will be the first-ever meeting between the two teams. It will be immediately followed by the Mitchell Bowl, with the Canada West champion Saskatchewan Huskies (8-2) hosting the Saint Mary's Huskies (6-3) at 1pm, also on TSN. The two Huskies have met three times before, including in the 2002 Vanier Cup, which Saint Mary's won 33-21.

## Canada West

Golden Bears hockey goaltender Dustin Schwartz was named the Canada West male athlete of the week after posting two shutouts against the second-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies last weekend.

## Ringette

On Saturday, the University of Alberta Ringette Club will play two games against their rivals from the University of Calgary. The first match is at 2pm at Clengary Arena. They'll follow that with a 6:15pm game at the Dow Centennial Centre in Fort Saskatchewan.

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### PERSONALS

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### SEVERAL LINES OF DAWN'S DRIVE

Here is a roundup of the news which has been important to me in the last few days.

QOB died leaving the world a less ho-rific place. You will be missed, Dirty.

Halo 2's first-day sales were \$125 million dollars from almost 2.5 million copies of the game. Although I still can't seem to get my Cameragee to link to my MSN account.

Arafat died. Also CSI: New York was preempted by this news and people were pissed off.

It seems that Vincent D'Onofrio passed out on the set of Law and Order: Criminal Intent. Aides say this is because he was so dependent on John Kerry losing the election.

There are conflicting reports coming out of Fallujah. Is it going well or not?

Today I found a Breville K-card on my desk. Not really sure where that will go.

Have any of you guys seen the URM show Veronica Mars? Why you shouldn't have; it isn't out here yet.



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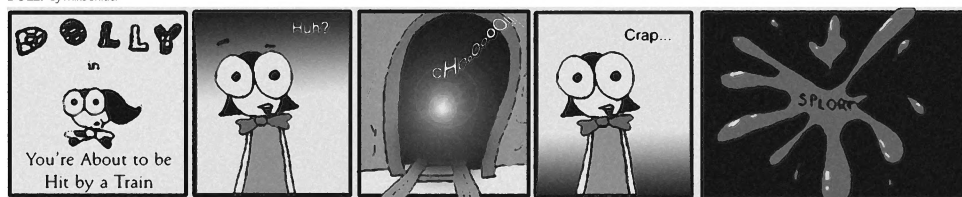
## PRIMATOLOGY by Tony Esteves and Steve Waldman



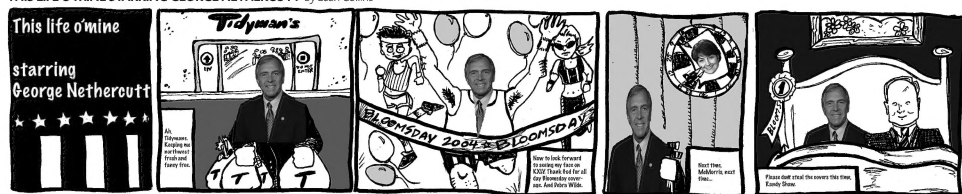
## HALEY'S COMIX by Mike Robertson



## DOLLY by Mike Snider



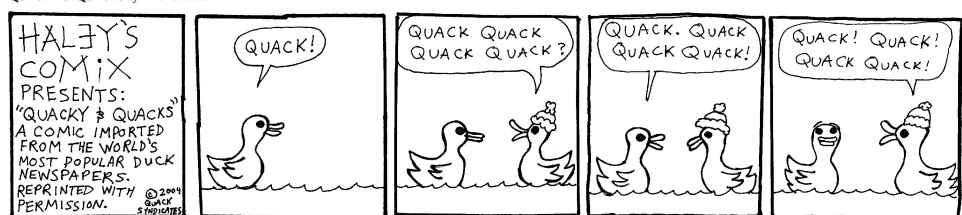
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